



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 or 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 from January 18, 2018, when the Commission held its public launch, to March 31, 2019. 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
1/17/18	Great time for a conversation that is long overdue.
1/17/18	My dream since I was an undergraduate student has been to serve my country. Six years after graduation, I have been unable to receive a government employment opportunity despite graduating with honors and gaining numerous professional experiences. I do not believe at present there are accessible recruitment mechanisms for the ordinary citizen who does not wield political connections. USAjobs is not the answer. I strongly believe that holding career fairs or hiring drives across the country on a regular basis would give people like myself, who are passionate about public service, the opportunity to articulate that rather than being relegated to lottery like odds with USAjobs. While many government agencies effectively recruit at the undergraduate and graduate level - and there are many successful programs that facilitate internships and recent grad opportunities - if you don't fit those criteria then you have to wait for a big break in order to get a civil service or even political appointment. In short, I believe recruitment could be more proactive, modernized, and engaging to help find patriotic Americans who are longing to serve.
1/18/18	AmeriCorps should become a standard element of a high school upbringing in the United States; National Service should be as ingrained in youth culture as going to the movies, attending prom, and rooting for the home team!
1/18/18	Hello! As a younger citizen (25) I would recommend the commission getting an Instagram account. I think that service has a large visual element to it, and IG would allow for stories and opportunities to be shared more effectively. Additionally, it can link to a Facebook page for cross-platform synergy.
1/18/18	I am a 48 y/o federal worker and did not serve in the Armed Forces. At the time I was 18, I was unaware of any other public service opportunities other than the armed services. Grateful I had ended up volunteering for the VA, which has led into a career, I now have the core values associated with working for a mission and purpose much greater than myself. Particularly, for me, this is very rewarding as I get to serve and support Veterans who have given so much. Military service is particularly unique since it is a "default" step other than college and the workforce when leaving high school. Plus, service members earn income immediately. Other public service (AmeriCoprps, Peace Corps, etc..) are not as well promoted, are competitive to get placements, and pay very, very small stipends - if at all. Perhaps if colleges & university systems had a preference for admitting people who have completed this kind of public service before entering college, that would help! It seems as if there is too much emphasis on immediately going to college after completing high school. Perhaps in the admission process there could be another criteria added instead of only GPA & ACT/SAT scores. Hope this feedback helps. Keep up the good work. I believe the intent of the commission is a good one.
1/18/18	I'm a former enlisted member of the U.S. Army, after separating from the Military I continued my public service with the FAA. I would love to start branching this commission out with different chapters, or regions if you will. I feel very passionate about public service and if we as a nation don't start spreading that concern and showing the younger generations how important public service is, we are going to fail as a nation.

	I can be reached by email, at [REDACTED], and I would love to discuss ideas on how to get our youth more involved with public service.
1/18/18	<p>Excellent! I think this commission could be the crucial step towards rekindling the desire to serve something greater than ourselves. Public service is a noble and necessary profession that binds a society together. For the past several years, leaders on both sides have eroded the pride in civil service. As a Marine Corps veteran and a career civil servant, in both State and Federal positions, I applaud each of you and look forward to the good work to come from this Commission!</p> <p>Robert Jolley</p>
1/19/18	Please consider increasing the compensation of those who serve in our Military. There is a Pilot shortage in the U.S. Airforce of 1700 Pilots. Thank You.
1/19/18	Lifting the requirement/limitations requiring enlisted soldiers to have a high school diploma would open a reservoir of young men and women who are eager to serve in the armed forces. Many of these kids come from challenging home lives, making staying in traditional school environments difficult. Those who take the time to get a GED and can still perform well on the ASVAB and physical assessments should be considered with the same weight as those with a diploma.
1/19/18	<p>Universal service is a win-win policy where the country benefits from the contributions of its diverse population of bright and energetic young people. And each individual benefits by learning discipline and maturity, the value of service and sacrifice, and developing a respect for others with a shared perspective on what it means to be an American. We can have a policy of universal service without making such service compulsory. In other words, we can create a cultural norm that will inspire service, and encourage industry to reward those coming from a period of service through hiring preferences and accelerated career tracks. This could begin with internship programs for late-teens as they complete their high school education and begin college or start working in a trade profession. Another possibility is the creation of a program for civilian service "reservists" who could augment the federal civil service, either as part of a unit or as individuals. This could enable citizens to continue to perform some level of public service throughout their private sector careers and would help federal agencies to cope when events caused a surge in demand for services (e.g., after a disaster, or in response to some other temporary agency need). In addition, we could expand ESGR protections to cover those who would sign up to work in support of vital public service roles, even if they are not military roles specifically. (ESGR has served our country for more than 45 years, fostering a culture in which all employers support and value the employment and military service of members of the National Guard and Reserve in the United States.) Finally, there is a great untapped resource of expertise within the retired population that could be given opportunities for volunteer service as expert consultants and advisors, mentors, and facilitators. Such volunteers have already demonstrated their value as they staff polling places during elections and conduct surveys in support of the decennial census, serve as crossing guards for public schools, and staff homeless shelters and food pantries.</p>

1/19/18	Hoping national service for all but a few becomes a reality in an effort to foster community. While everyone is not fit for military service most are fit for some type of service to this great country and nation.
1/19/18	Any study of service in America will be incomplete if it does not include the Volunteer Firefighters serving all over the country. They are tackling the same recruitment problems as the rest of the nations service organizations and would benefit from and contribute greatly to any insights into the challenges faced by all.I joined my community's volunteer fire department when I was 18 and served as an active volunteer firefighter for 25 years and have been associated with my department for over 45 years. I was classified 4F after my draft physical.
1/19/18	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am a Legislative Director at the National Governors Association and would like to see if there was any staff I would meet with to discuss the Commissions events and activities.</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>-Mary Catherine Ott</p> <p>Legislative Director</p> <p>National Governors Association</p> 

	<p>[REDACTED]</p>
1/19/18	<p>To the Commission: I am a veteran of five years of service in the Marines. I am also the partner of a Gold Star widow who lost her late husband in Iraq. I wish to state my opposition to military conscription in favor of an all-volunteer force. America's current policy of registration and potential military conscription represents a tacit threat to the freedom of America's youth. Under conscription, the government may compel an individual to sacrifice life and limb without consent. The very idea of this should be anathema to anyone who supports America's promise of individual liberty. Yet the threat of the draft remains. Even in the face of a national emergency, let the ranks of America's armed forces be filled only with volunteers. Let our government appeal to an individual's love of country, backed up with a willingness to provide worthwhile remuneration and benefits, and not fall back upon brute coercion. This is how we save our country in a time of crisis and make it a country worth saving. Sincerely, Nicholas P. Provenzo [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Alexandria, VA [REDACTED]</p>
1/19/18	<p>Let's include the ladies in draft registration. As a former, federally funded workforce developer in Pennsylvania, I had to tell numerous male clients who had failed to register for the draft that they were ineligible for job search assistance. Their female counterparts has no such restrictions regarding draft registration. So much for equal rights. Males are being discriminated against in draft registration.</p>

1/19/18	At 18 years old, the human brain is not yet fully developed yet 18-year olds are forced to make decisions that can effect the rest of their lives. I think these "kids" need time to grow up and I think compulsory military service for both men and women is the answer. Israel uses this approach. In addition, the favoritism and opportunities for advancement in DOD now shown to former military - which excludes most women - will hopefully disappear as the playing field becomes even. Lastly, the pool of people trained in self-defense, weapon usage, and military mindset will grow and become the hidden army that can be tapped in times of national crisis.
1/19/18	Though it may not have served as the impetus for my own personal service in the US Army, I feel that there is a certain lack of appreciation for those who have decided that society's needs are more important than their own. While such service includes first responders and teachers as well, I feel that education as to the ideals of service are as important as fiscal considerations. If we can better value the moral decision, I feel that change can be made. In this consideration, public education about the Selective Service needs to be more than something that people are informed to do when they reach the age of 18. In the age of a volunteer military, duty needs to be appreciated, not indoctrinated. In the Army, LDRSHIP was drilled as an acronym, with the "D" standing for duty. This is a core conceptual error. I don't have a duty to my nation as a soldier. My duty to my nation is to be a soldier. One's duty can be in other forms, but the duty begins as an educated citizen. Over the years, the American opinion of the military service member has changed. When I was in, many people liked to say that they supported the soldiers, not the mission. While this sentiment has largely gone away, I feel it is important to revisit it. The issue to be raised is that the informed citizen must recognize that a citizen's duty comes before the soldier's mission.
1/20/18	"Chose" should be "choose" in above statement.
1/20/18	It is important that there is no intent, nor will there be any in the future, to conscript women for military service.
1/20/18	I am an honorably discharged Marine Corps veteran who has been having extreme trouble using USAJobs.gov to find employment in the US Government on the Federal Side. Myself as well as all of my peers from the Marine Corps are only finding our way into the Federal Side of the Government by going in under a contracting company first. This leaves many Veterans with the inadequate false sense of job security that a contract offers considering most expire each year leaving the Veteran unemployed until he/she can find a Federal Job. The only way to get a GS Position seems to be already knowing someone in a GS13/14 role that can direct hire you through specific wording in a weekend closed out USA Jobs posting specifically geared to your resume.

1/20/18	<p>My Service Story 1 of 4 I am a millennial, and I feel that my story is familiar among my peers. Many of my classmates and old colleagues found their inspiration to serve many much more strongly than I but few ever found their avenue of service, and many who did ended up cynical and jaded. My generation is a global generation. Moving so much my friends were those I could take with me on email and forums and games. I grew up on the internet; my friends were from Germany, Canada, and Mexico. I knew as much about Australian politics as American, and the issues that faced young adults in the Middle East were no less real to me than those I faced at home. I believe this is a big reason why there is a declining desire to serve among young people today. With every passing day the world becomes more connected and youth become more global. At the same time it seems America is falling behind. We see our global peers - they have accessible health care, journalists who aren't primarily entertainers, districts that aren't gerrymandered for votes, prisons that aren't focused on making a profit, police that protect and serve, companies that can't vote with the strength of their wallet, net neutrality laws that protect the internet (the internet we grew up on), climate change policies based on facts, politicians that don't shut down the government due to politics, and schools that value educators and science over profit and religion and we find it's hard to be inspired. In addition, many good careers require a degree and more and more require a masters to advance. At the same time tuition costs are rising sharply, leaving many young adults with no choice but to take a job that pays well if they can find one over a life of service. The service job that pays for a car, student loans, and a mortgage, and is available to a young adult with no connections, is few and far between. Despite this, I believe there is still room for youth to serve in America, but to inspire people to serve the message must change to one of inclusiveness, one that shows that America is part of the global community and that by serving in military, national, or public service you are serving the world as well. The obstacles to service must be addressed, and there must be ways for young adults to not only enter service, but to build a family and a life while serving. Below is my story of service, I hope it provides some insights on the challenges and experiences of one millennial.</p>
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1/20/18	<p>My Service Story # 2 of 4 I grew up a military brat. By the time I graduated high school I'd been to nine schools, and by the time I turned twenty three I'd moved twenty times. I was twelve on September 11th. On the 10th my mother had major surgery, and within a month my father deployed. Everyone old enough remembers that day, where they were and what they were doing, but for me it was more than a moment of tragedy. It was a day that changed the direction of my life completely. I have two younger sisters, one close in age and the other much younger. With my dad busy with work, and soon to deploy, and my mom in the hospital, I received a crash course in growing up quickly. But the challenges of the next few weeks and the worries of the next nine months as family and friends deployed aren't what sticks with me today. My friends and I were suddenly the men or women of the house, stepping up in ways we never imagined, while at the same time still being scared teenagers. That combination of responsibility and worry formed a bond between us that it took me years to replicate. That shared experience, despite its unfortunate cause, was the first step in my journey to service. It was this feeling more than anything else, though there was certainly a desire to follow in my father's footsteps, which led to my interest in the military. While I'd never been very patriotic, and my (forced) weekly trips to help at the local food bank with the church never resonated with me, those early weeks after 9/11 always stuck with me. The feeling of camaraderie, the act of rising above your fears as a team to overcome an obstacle, and making a sacrifice (even a small one at the age of twelve) for something bigger struck a chord with me in a way nothing else ever had, and in my mind the only way to replicate that feeling was by joining the Air Force. Naturally, at sixteen I was completely unprepared for the medical issues that stopped me from joining the military. Two years before I graduated high school, after receiving my arrow of light in the Cub Scouts and joining Civil Air Patrol in preparation to be a pilot, I found myself with no idea what I'd do in the future. Non-military service never crossed my mind. The Peace Corps was for hippies, contracting for retired officers, and Habitat for the uncommonly religious. Despite growing up in a military family I'd never heard of many of the other service groups that were available. Cub Scouts and Civil Air Patrol both partnered with the military and church groups, but I never saw service opportunities beyond those. So, with college deadlines looming, I chose IT as my career field and put service out of my mind. Some years later, after college (graduating with honors) and after a string of retail and service (the kind with food and low pay) jobs, I was lucky enough to meet a retired General with friends in the right places. Within two months I was working for the U.S. Government.</p>
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1/20/18	<p>My Service Story 3 of 4 By 25 I reached a position that many people don't get to in their entire career. It was often awkward, being in a higher grade than coworkers who were twenty years my senior, but as the months passed by I began to realize why I'd been given the opportunity I worked. I quickly became cynical in my position. Here I was a few years out of college, with next to no experience, doing more work in a day than many colleagues accomplished in a week. Twenty minute smoke breaks, two hour lunches, leaving early and starting late, it seemed most people were in competition to see how little work they could get away with doing, and the higher up the chain you went the worse it got. Jaded, I took an opportunity that brought me overseas. There I did work with communities and individuals who were drastically less fortunate than me. It was during my time there that I truly learned to serve. I saw what a difference my team and I could make, and for the first time in more than a decade I re-found the feeling I'd been looking for, and recognized it for what it really was a passion to be part of something that was bigger than myself. I was inspired to serve. After spending more than a year traveling back and forth overseas I returned to the states full time and took a promotion at a new job. While I sorely missed the work I had done overseas, the new position paid even better and the work promised to be challenging and important. However, while I flourished, my friends and old colleagues floundered. The longer I spent in the government the more I began to see behind the curtain, and the more I began to realize what a giant advantage I'd been given when my old friend got me my first government job. Friends and coworkers bright young adults with a passion to serve way beyond my own were unable to find anything in the government despite collectively putting in hundreds of applications to USA jobs. The few jobs that were posted (many being taken by people only coasting for retirement) were quickly grabbed up by individuals who had the right connections. For someone with no connections and unwilling to take a job that pays 30k in D.C., government service is hard to break into. Now, three years after returning from overseas, nearly all of my old coworkers have left the government or given up trying to find a GS position. One by one I've watched them leave for private industry, for better pay, more respect, and positions where they feel they can make a difference. I expect it won't be too much longer before I do the same.</p>
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1/20/18	<p>My Service Story “ 4 of 4I hope the following thoughts pulled from my experience will help your commission and your mission. They are of course based on my own life, but I think many of them would resonate well with my peers.1. USA Jobs and the government hiring process need a review. It’s too easy to get friends and family hired and too hard for someone with no connections to become a public servant.2. Civilian employment needs to be structured more competitively. All civilian positions should be term based. If someone wishes to serve another term they should have a review or re-hire competition for the spot. It’s currently next to impossible to fire most government employees without years of documentation and the threat of lawsuits for harassment. The government should not be filled with the lowest quality technically acceptable, but rather with America’s best and brightest.3. Service programs beyond the military are not widely advertised. I went to three high schools in three states and saw no service or volunteer opportunities except JROTC through any of them.4. The rocketing price of college and the expectation that everyone has a degree means the massive student debt will nearly always take priority over lower paying service jobs. 5. Many service jobs are focused on America, and while that’s vital, today’s youth want to feel they are part of a global community.6. The world does not see America as it once did, and being global citizens on an unprecedented scale, I feel today’s youth tend to share that view. This means it’s much harder to inspire someone to serve.7. Millennials are old news. Generation Z are the youth that will be called to service next, and I feel they will face the same problems I did but on an even greater level. They should be the focus of your efforts to reach America’s Youth.8. I don’t remember registering for the selective service. I assume I did it in order to apply for student loans. There was no talk about it at home or in school; I was never taught what it meant. It was only years later when I applied for federal employment that I actually took the time to read about what selective service was. If it continues to be required in some form, I believe it should be a mandatory part of school curriculum. No one should be able to register for something so potentially big while knowing so little about it.Despite the length, I hope my story and thoughts have been valuable in some way.Thank you for listening.</p>
1/20/18	<p>I have always felt that all Americans should be required, by law, to perform some sort of civic duty unless grossly physically or mentally incapable (bone spurs on heels would not be an excuse). There are many civic duties that could be done by people with minimal physical disabilities -- such as manning information desks in hospitals. I think the only way to achieve your goal is by passing a law.</p>
1/20/18	<p>I believe all Americans should be required to take citizenship classes similar to those non-native born take when they become citizens. I believe learning about our country is something that everyone should do. If there was more of that in middle and high schools people may feel a more common bond between all Americans.</p>

1/22/18	<p>Hi, I am a widow of a 22-year Army veteran, Donald R Donnelly SFC, 7th Cav Recon 49-51, 66-67. He signed up for the Army in 1947 as a young man of seventeen, with his mother's permission, of course. He was only seventeen. It was fresh after WWII treaty was signed, and not everyone knew the war was over. So after his time in training, he was assigned along with his troop to the Atoll Islands off Japan to 'flush out' the Japanese holdouts. To Don as a young man it was an exciting adventure. He had the invincible attitude of youth. And the Army recruiter's reassurance if he decided to make a career of serving, our government would reward him with monetary benefits when he retired. Don retired in 1968 with a Bronze Star Medal, two Purple Hearts, a gold Sharp Shooter medal, and various other medals and commendations. During Don's time serving, the Army was his focus in life. Because of his service, both in Korea and Vietnam, Don suffered many health issues in the last twenty years of his life. It took a lot of persistence and effort on Don's part to be awarded the benefits promised to him as a young recruit. Don passed from complications of the scar tissue from the Prostate cancer surgery he suffered performed at the VAMC in Elsmere, DE, and the late diagnosed bladder cancer he suffered at the same VAMC. After enduring that treatment at the VAMC, Don decided to go to a private hospital. When Don died at Wilmington Hospital, Wilmington, DE, he had a urostomy, a colostomy, a port for fluids, and a feeding tube. But they didn't feed him. They said it would not help him. They gave him morphine instead. The nurse who had the first shift giving him Vancomycin did not know to shut off the NG tube, which was emptying his stomach. The medicine she placed so carefully into his peg tube went right out the NG tube. I was there and tried to stop her. She would not listen. I reported it to the nurse on the desk. She said that explains his fluid levels fluxuation. But said she could not give him another dose. It is against hospital policy. They asked me to leave. I tried to find someone to talk to but to no avail. Don was dead in two days. To this day I have to wonder who gave the order to let him die. He had an infection, which was responding to the antibiotic. Don had a warrior's body. If he was cut, the bleeding stopped quickly. Scar tissue formed quickly. But he needed help from the medical community. He did not get it. Neither with the VAMC, with their assumption his urge to pee was from the Prostate surgery, never scoping the bladder until he reported a blood clot in his urine. Nor did he receive proper protocol from the private hospital. He was theirs to care for but did not. And because everyone in the hospital backs everyone else, even if they are incompetent, people die. Like my husband, Don Donnelly.</p>
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1/23/18	<p>First, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. I believe service is an honor and privilege. Further, this a topic that deserves national attention.</p> <p>I believe that there are many factors that have led to a decrease in people's ability to serve. To be clear, I don't believe that there is a decrease in people's willingness or desire to serve, only that there are forces that make service even more difficult. Just as an example (not the main topic of my comment), my son's high school does not have a JR. ROTC program. While there is a plethora of opportunities to participate in protest movements (sponsored by teachers), there's no opportunity to learn about military service.</p> <p>Currently, if one wishes to serve in the military, that person has 2 options. Either enlist in a full time military branch or enlist in a reserve unit (including national guard reserve). Each option requires the person to be ready to be sent overseas for prolonged periods of time. I have an infinite amount of respect and gratitude for our service men and women who make that sacrifice. However; not all of us can make that type of sacrifice. Either because careers don't support that type of sacrifice or there is no family support system in place that could lead to that type of sacrifice.</p> <p>Further, although much is discussed about military service being a "community service", much of the decision making process of committing to military service is reduced to an economic decision, not necessarily one of "national service". For example, "join and you will earn money for college" or "join and we will teach you a skill to get a job". Implicitly, we have converted military service into an economic decision, rather one of community service. (For an excellent discussion regarding the dangers of conflating economic and social decision making, see "Predictably Irrational" by Dan Ariely).</p> <p>From a certain perspective, military service is a very binary decision. Either an individual is willing to commit to being sent overseas for prolonged periods of time, or that person is of absolutely no use to the military (regardless of their skill sets). Thus "military service" has been defined not by necessarily serving and/or defending one's country, but by a willingness and ability to drop everything and serve abroad. There is no federal, military option to serve as a reservist locally (much like the reserves in the "old days").</p> <p>Perhaps, it is time to expand what we think of as "military service". Maybe it is time for a third option to be available to individuals who are able and willing to serve in a more limited capacity. This third option could follow the State Defense Force (f/k/a State Guard) or Coast Guard Auxiliary model, where citizens can volunteer to serve in a "Home Front" reserve capacity.</p>
1/24/18	FEDERAL REVIEWER

1/24/18	Hello, My name is Wendy LaRue, and over the past four years I have served as a professional staff member for several temporary federal commissions. My work in this regard, to date, has focused on writing, editing, and qualitative research. I have served as support and executive staff. My broader work experience includes extensive experience in communications and education. I am particularly interested in the work of the Commission on Military, National, and Public service and would like to schedule an appointment with Mr. Abernathy to discuss possibilities for joining the commission's professional staff. Best Regards, Wendy LaRue, PhD [REDACTED]
1/26/18	DR DWIGHT SANDERS SE US60-150417000099
1/28/18	The efforts undertaken should include a requirement for mandatory government service, with no deferrals. There are thousands of unfilled positions in all phases of government between federal civilian and military requirements, including non-combat roles within the military. A minimum 2 years service requirement in a role based on the individuals aptitude and/or stated wishes at current entry level salaries with benefits similar to other federal positions with one exception... given that it is essentially "conscription" enhanced educational/tuition benefits should be granted in amounts equivalent to the amount of time in government service up to a full four year tuition grant at a public university. The option to remain in government service as a career is offered based on the overall performance ratings achieved but no less than satisfactory service levels would be deemed acceptable.
1/31/18	For the past 25 years I have volunteered with the Wisconsin Army Cadets, a nonprofit military Exploring program, chartered through the Wisconsin National Guard that teaches youth, ages 12-20 about military careers through a uniformed program that encompasses and embraces the 7 key Army values and works to build the ethos of military & community service. This program has shown me the importance of providing today's youth with a structured, high speed, quality service and learning opportunity. Over these 25 years many things have remained consistent; a strong desire by the youth to belong to a team (identity), to build physical and mental strength, to be challenged and lead by strong role models and mentors and to understand what it means to serve (commitment, sacrifice, challenge). I have always felt that every child should have the opportunity, more so the responsibility of service whether it is through the military or some form of National Service like AmeriCorps. I have also spent my last 18 years serving (to this day) as the Director of AmeriCorps for Marshfield Clinic Health Systems. The individuals I have encountered in AmeriCorps typically serve to build experience, resumes or get a foot in the door. In most cases I don't see members enrolling to serve their country; it's always second or third in line. I do believe we can make National Service much more valuable and stronger through a number of changes. These include: a stronger focus on patriotism and American values throughout the service year, stricter standardization of program training and service gear. Although AmeriCorps is not the military, I do believe it can learn a lot from it when it comes to branding, structure and training. I believe our nation needs a form of mandatory service to help teach our youth just how great they have it in this country, what it took to get us to this point and the sacrifices made by every generation, to experience the loss of control of their personal lives for a period. For far too long our youth have been indoctrinated with negative connotations of our country, that we don't deserve what we have or the concept that we have no right to be who we are. America was built on service, pride, hard work, sacrifice and patriotism. It's time we engrain this into our youth at an early age so they have an equal chance to continue

	<p>building the greatest nation on earth! I applaud this commission's work and will support it in any way I can through my daily work and service! Brian A. Blahnik, Appleton, Wisconsin [REDACTED]</p>
2/2/18	<p>Idea: When people register for SS, have an option "Are you interested in voluntary service?". If yes, they are directed to a website, similar to the MyAmeriCorps portal, but much glossier, that allows potential applicants to create a profile and search opportunities based on their skills/interests. Military and civilian service opportunities would all be here. Maybe some coordination with the nonprofit Service Year Alliance would be helpful here.</p> <p>--Justin</p>
2/2/18	<p>In 1959 I registered as a Conscientious Objector because of my commitment to the Church of the Brethren's Peace stance. I served two years as a CO for the National Service Board for Religious Objectors in Washington, D. C. This experience helped me to make a life decision of going into the pastoral ministry. I have been an advocate for peace ever since helping other young men and women who have questions about serving in a peace oriented project.</p>
2/2/18	<p>"Service to your country" , to me and many, many thousands of US citizens, does not mean training or teaching to kill. I serve without a gun, but with a desire to make a constructive difference that builds up, and doesn't tear down. I choose to encourage children to learn how and why to respect all life with gentleness. I choose to offer choices to violence. I choose to equip myself with the means to help and serve, as I've learned in The Church of the Brethren, one of the three historic peace churches of our country. I served our country in 1988 with a year of volunteer work at a shelter for homeless people in Brattleboro, Vermont. I served our country with over a year of walking for peace, town by town. I serve our country with visits to people in nursing homes. I serve our country with various demonstrations of neighbor love. Peace, and working for peace, is more than patriotic, it is the one and only way I choose to serve. Thank you. Debbi Reed-Savory.</p>
2/2/18	<p>After college, I served as a volunteer for 3 years in a program called Brethren Volunteer Service. I worked in outdoor education at camps across the country and have never regretted giving up those years to share time and talents with others, while my peers were beginning careers and starting families. I recommend this to anyone and would support an increased emphasis by the U.S. government for all young people to do at least one year of volunteer service upon completion of high school or college.</p>

2/2/18	<p>In 1972 I joined the Brethren Volunteer Service, and spent two years working at the headquarters of the United Farmworkers Organization in California. I joined BVS because I wanted to do something to help others. I chose the UFW because the position listed was as a child care worker, and I had just earned my degree in Elementary Education. Also, I believed in what the UFW was doing for Farmworkers.</p> <p>Cesar Chavez believed in nonviolent protest, and the Church of the Brethren is a Peace Church. I saw firsthand how nonviolent protests work. I saw how the Farmworkers were being mistreated by the growers and by the government that was meant to protect them. The UFW implemented health care for the Farmworkers through clinics; established a credit union for the transient workers who didn't stay in one area long enough to open a bank account; gave the workers a voice when dealing with growers; fought to improve and make safer working conditions. Some of the safety regulations are sadly being cut back under the new administration. Spraying of dangerous pesticides has recently been approved, even when workers are in the fields, for example.</p> <p>My time in Brethren Volunteer Service gave me a wider view of my country and the world. It showed me that there is a lot to be done to help people stand up for and fight for their rights. Some groups of people will always be taken advantage of by people in power, and groups like the UFW help to give those people a voice.</p>
2/2/18	<p>After World War II my father and mother made their farm in Union Bridge, MD available for heifers to gather. My father was a Conscientious Objector, but because he was a farmer he was deferred from military service. He and my mother had a very strong need to do something that would bring healing to a war torn world. They became aware of Dan West's dream of sending heifers to war torn countries so children could have real milk instead of powdered milk to drink.</p> <p>This dream became a reality as heifers began to arrive at our farm in various modes of transportation. The dream gained the support of a local trucker who oftentimes was called on to truck animals from the local railroad to our farm. The local veterinarian offered his services with no charge. Neither of these men were members of the Church of the Brethren, but they captured this dream and wanted to support the cause. Yes, there were others in the community that deemed our family to be members of the Communist Party and directional signs to our farm were frequently torn down. A stampede occurred which resulted in the deaths of some of the heifers. My parents were not deterred. As an eight year old at that time I learned quickly that my world was much larger than the confines of Carroll County Maryland and resulted in my own employment with Church World Service in my adult years. From 1944-1948 3,600 head of cattle were shipped to Germany and Poland from our farm. I am now in awe that this small beginning in the Church of the Brethren is now known as Heifer International and serving many nations around the world with livestock that is needed.</p>

2/2/18	<p>In 1966-67. I served in VietNam for 18 months as a civilian volunteer with VietNam Christian Service. This agency combined the volunteer resources of Church World Service (including BVS, my point of entry), Mennonite Central Committee, and Lutheran World Relief. At that time I was a registered nurse so, after 6 weeks of language study, I was assigned to work in a small hospital owned and operated by the Protestant Church of VietNam (the Tin-Lanh church). Our little hospital/clinic (Chan-Y-Vien Tin-Lanh) was located just north of the city of NhaTrang on the coast of the South China Sea. We served sick or injured Vietnamese civilians in our (approximately) forty beds plus overflow of (perhaps) ten on the floor of the front porch, and from thirty to fifty tuberculosis patients in our two "TB houses." In addition, we had a daily out-patient clinic and did surgery twice a week plus emergencies. Our facilities were quite limited so most of the surgeries were related to eye diseases (cataracts, entropions, and a few corneal transplants). We treated typhoid fever, cholera, malaria, congenital heart disease, bubonic plague, trauma such as broken legs and severe burns, cancer, pneumonia, intestinal worm infestations, deep-seated infections from untreated wounds, maggot-infested lesions, and, occasionally, severe emotional problems (like PTSD, only in civilians). Many times we had to consult tropical disease textbooks for information about treatment of diseases we didn't know still existed! Providing health care in such a different environment was enough of a challenge. But added to culture shock, I was trying to learn the most difficult language I have ever encountered. Sometimes it was almost more than I could cope with. Fortunately, the active conflict of the war was some distance away but the secondary effects of the hostilities affected us every day: limitations on travel, instability of a large portion of the population as refugees, governmental corruption and instability, massive presence of foreign military personnel (American, Korean, Australian, etc.) and the traffic they created, seemingly unlimited inflation, and I could go on and on. This was a life-changing experience for me in many ways. However, I will always be grateful for this opportunity to express my anti-war protests in a positive and constructive way. I hope this is helpful to your deliberations. Thank you for the opportunity to share. MarySue (Helstern) Rosenberger</p>
2/2/18	<p>As a believer in the Christian way of dealing with other people is one of cooperation, understanding, and allowing others to express their opinions and thoughts. Christ never taught to kill them so you can have your own way. I, as an objector to military service, was allowed to give thirty two months of my life in service to community programs in the United States and Germany. I could share with others what peace can be in a democratic society following the teachings of Jesus.</p>
2/2/18	<p>I grew up in the Washington City COB and was influenced by the many BVSers who attended my church. Some served in inner city Washington repairing homes and assisting low income people. Others served at NIH and recently at the soup kitchen. I am now at the Hagerstown COB. We had a BVSer help with our youth and community Youth Club which serves inner city children with indoor and outdoor activities, including helping with our community garden. Young people and older people want to serve their communities outside of the military machine to promote peace, understanding and reconciliation. -Sue Vanderveer</p>

2/2/18	<p>I think love is a more powerful force than hate. I think doing good for people creates better relations than harming them. I think dropping food, medicine, and building supplies on people is far more productive than dropping bombs. If we had dropped food, medicine, and building supplies on Iraq for several years instead of the bombs we dropped, I think the Iraqi people today would have a completely different opinion of the US than they do at present. I oppose the draft and highly encourage participation in serving human need through programs like Brethren Volunteer Service, AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, Mennonite Disaster programs, and the many other Church sponsored programs that serve to meet human need rather than foster hate through military programs and military intervention. Participation in disaster relief opens a person's eyes to the good that we as humans are called by God to do - to meet others needs and serve others. The idea that a strong military is a deterrent to war is a false human proposition that only continues to propagate hate among people. If the whole world followed the motto of "an eye for an eye" the whole world would eventually be blind. I oppose the draft and highly recommend participation in programs that relieve hunger, disease, homelessness, and other forms of human suffering. It's time to put our money and energy into constructive activities rather than militaristic activities that harm, kill, destroy, and demean humanity. Instead of training young men (and women) to kill each other, let's train them in agriculture, medicine, construction, and many other areas that build up life rather than destroy it. Just as many jobs and just as much economic growth can be made by building houses, training in medicine, and growing food as are being created now by our armed forces. Let's train people for life rather than confront them with conditions like PTSD acquired through the many evil and destructive actions of the military. Good people suffer through a lifetime because of the activities and actions forced upon them during their years of military activity. Good people are ruined for life - physically, and emotionally - because of actions witnessed and incurred during war and war-like action. Let's train for life instead of death. I oppose the military draft and the promotion of military participation and encourage participation in programs that help foster good will by helping people in need.</p>
2/2/18	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I reached draft age during the Vietnam War. I was ordered to report for the mandatory physical and after being told I only had moderately flat feet, I spent approximately half an hour answering questions from a panel of military personnel who were aware that I had notified my local draft board of my Conscientious Objector status. I shared with them my own firmly held convictions that I could never in good conscience participate in the Military in any capacity. I also shared that my life goals were to treat my neighbors and all my fellow human beings with dignity and respect the way Jesus taught, and to live out my life in such a way as to demonstrate His love for all people, whether labeled "enemies" by my government or not.</p> <p>This resulted in a 1-O classification by my local draft board and instructions to report for a two year duty assignment at a government approved location within a short time. I was part of a historical Peace Church tradition and as such had access to several options as to approved service opportunities, one of which would have allowed me to work in a hospital setting less than 100 miles from home with the possibility of being home for occasional weekends. With many of my high school friends going to Vietnam, this seemed unfair and did not reflect my idea of "service". I chose instead to participate in a Mennonite Voluntary Service assignment near Philadelphia, PA. During my two years there I worked in maintenance, remodeling, and repair of the facilities which housed a home for mentally and or physically handicapped children, aged a few months to 21 years. Since it was a newly started home in a very old facility, the need for childcare staff often exceeded the supply of available persons and I spent many days and nights working</p>

	<p>directly with the children, taking care of their basic needs and helping them to achieve their individual potentials. From teaching an eight year old girl with a portion of her brain removed to feed herself, or rocking a baby back to sleep late at night, I was fulfilling my goal of exhibiting a service lifestyle.</p> <p>Whether working directly with the kids or making their facility a first class place for them to grow and develop, I felt I was making a positive difference, a lasting contribution to some of the less fortunate among us in our world who definitely needed to be "served". Believing the war effort was valid or important or not didn't affect my belief that my contribution was one of the most important I could make at that time in history. I still believe that with all my heart!</p>
2/2/18	<p>I served in the Peace Corps from 1984-1986 in the beautiful country of Sri Lanka. It was a fabulous experience: to learn about another culture, to travel in a gorgeous tropical island country, to assist the Sri Lankan people in my assignment of teaching English to adults who could become English teachers after completing our course, and to live with 2 different kind and generous Singhelese families. Most importantly, I was able to learn that people are the same all over the world: they love their families, they value their religion (Buddhism, Hindu, Islam and Christianity), and they are proud of their country and traditions and want to share these with others. We are more alike than we are different.</p>
2/2/18	<p>I have served in Brethren Volunteer Service and AmeriCorps. I was in BVS for over two years and I have been in AmeriCorps for 5 months and counting. I know the importance and impact that a volunteer in these organizations can do. Volunteers see the real work in this country. We work with United States Americans and refugees of all ages. We are doing the good work. We work to end poverty. We work to empower, inspire, educate, love. As a spiritual woman in the Christian denomination, Love is always the answer. I understand that the world works in ways where love may not seem to be the answer. Nuclear weapons, money, and war seem to be priorities in the world. Try telling that to an 12 year old boy living in an underprivileged neighborhood in Baltimore, Maryland. The after school arts program that he regularly attends and where I teach have taught him to control his temper and give him positive adult role models. Without volunteers in AmeriCorps, this program would not exist. I have seen lives changed from volunteer service. I have seen good work that come from the idea that community is important. Why shove a kid in the military to learn how to shoot a gun when that kid could instead learn actual life skills through organizations that will make his life more fruitful? Imagine if everyone in the world put down their weapons and agreed to focus on their own communities, their own youth to better their future. It is not all rainbows and unicorns. It is hard work. Healing broken communities is tough. Trust must be gained and good intention is vital. This is what I have learned in my years of volunteering full time. I work for very little pay to better the communities I am a part of. Increasing numbers in the military is not what is important; increasing the number of people who care about their fellow human is important.</p>
2/3/18	<p>This is a follow up e-mail. Yesterday I submitted a piece regarding my parents role in Heifer Project which is now Heifer International. Their names were omitted and they are Roger and Olive Roop of Union Bridge, MD. Thanks!</p>

2/3/18	<p>Thanks for this opportunity. My name is Philip R. Kreider and I was born near Wadsworth, OH in 1941, now living in Harrisonburg, VA. As a young child I often looked at the sky, as US Jets passed over, and wished to fly one of those some day. By the time I turned 16, I became convinced becoming a warrior was inconsistent with my personnel faith belief. I registered with the Selective Service (SS) as required at that time, providing all required information including medical records. I also requested an interview with the officer in charge of the local SS office. I remember this 16 yr old talking with the "Commander" dressed in full Military Uniform discussing my understandings of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, found in the Bible, the book of Matthew. The interview closed with the statement that I no doubt would need to be called back to talk to a group of three officers before a final determination of my SS status would be made. It was some time following that interview, I received in the mail a letter from the SS Board. Upon opening it I learned that I had received a 4-F classification, a medical deferment (1st because I had "flat feet," 2nd because I had a "heart murmur.") I remember being a bit disappointed that no consideration of my faith convictions seemed important. As I considered my future, I was mindful that my many friends had fewer options, as they enlisted in the various branches of the military. I was convicted that just because I had a deferment, was not reason enough to not consider how I might contribute as a citizen to our American Society. Shaping my personal faith as an Anabaptist, in the Mennonite tradition, I learned that we (as a Church Denomination) had agreements with the SS Board for a deferred status of 1-W for Conscientious Objectors (CO). That is what I did. I spent 2 yrs working in a hospital in Portland Oregon, my monthly salary was \$10 the 1st yr & \$20 the 2nd yr. Our church provided room & board and my earnings from the hospital went to that church program, where they used the excess in earnings to support other service programs in various parts of the U.S. so that other young men and women citizens could serve others. In that 2 yrs I spent many days taking care of returning veterans from the various engagements in which they received injuries. I never told them I had received a medical deferment, but that I was a CO. Some veterans were quite upset with me and would not permit me to attend to them in any way, most were much more understanding. For me it was a valuable time to hear and learn how much we all want to serve as citizens and how we care about this Country even in our differences and ways of doing so. I believe that it is important for this commission to find some way/s to provide for opportunities and methods for young men and women to serve as citizens of our country. Thanks again for this opportunity' Philip Kreider [REDACTED]</p>
2/3/18	<p>I am a member of the Church of the Brethren, a Christian denomination that has for centuries opposed war of any kind. We believe that all war is sin. Both of my grandfathers and my great grandfather were conscientious objectors and did alternative service instead of serving in the military. This right to do alternative service instead of serve in the military is an extremely important right that must be protected for those whose religious conscience does not allow them to kill others in war. I believe that Jesus calls us to love our enemies, as he says in Matthew 5:44. To comply with that teaching and follow in the footsteps of Jesus I also chose to do two years of voluntary service. First I served with Mennonite Voluntary Service and second I served with Brethren Volunteer Service. It is still important for me to serve my church and country but I will not kill in order to do this. I urge you in the strongest possible terms to protect the right of citizens to do alternative service that is not military.</p>

	Thank you!!
2/4/18	<p>Service to country via national public services would rise tremendously if the benefits of doing so approached that of military service. The current annual stipends for services such as AmeriCorps are far, far too low. If we are to foster a new national service tradition among youth, in the short term we must make such service attractive financially. Personally, I would like to see a return of programs such as the Civilians Conservation Corps to tackle rebuilding our infrastructure.</p> <p>We would likely have far more young people sign up for the National Guard if they were guaranteed the Guard would not be deployed overseas. Many people do not want to participate in warfare, especially when they are not defending the US, but instead are deployed to foreign lands. If the National Guard would instead be used only for disaster assistance and defending the country from within the country, and was still financially attractive, participation would increase. As a caveat, we shouldn't be asking high school kids to enlist full time in military. They are far too young to understand what it is they are signing up for.</p>

2/4/18	<p>I look forward to having an opportunity to participate in your discussions. Do you have a schedule of these events? Will they be "open mike" public hearings, or invitation-only panels? If the latter, is there a procedure for requesting an opportunity to participate or testify? According to your website at "inspire2.serve.gov", you have additional information on Facebook. But that information, including the video of your launch event, is only available to logged-in Facebook users who have joined and agreed to Facebook's terms of service. I'm not a member of Facebook, and I don't want to be. Is this information available on any ".gov" site? Engaging with a government agency should not be conditioned on agreeing to the terms of service (a different meaning of "service" than in the title of your commission, of course!) of a commercial entity. Please keep me informed as you schedule future events and establish procedures for participation. Sincerely, Edward Hasbrouck [REDACTED] San Francisco, CA [REDACTED]</p>
2/5/18	<p>The most important 2 years of my life were the years I spent serving as a volunteer outreach and congregations fellow at Jubilee USA Network in Washington, DC. Connected to Jubilee through joining Brethren Volunteer Service, I gained my first significant experience in activism and applying my Rutgers Business School skills to a mission I believed in. The mission of Jubilee USA is to create and achieve policies on debt, tax, trade and transparency that help end poverty....to win solutions that impact our lives and our global community....and build an economy that serves, protects and promotes participation of the most vulnerable.</p> <p>My commitment to Jubilee included helping build its network of congregations and grassroots groups who would lobby and educate about fighting global poverty through debt cancellation; as well as giving presentations; helping organize conferences; and managing part-time volunteers. My commitment to Brethren Volunteer Service was to attempt solidarity with the hundreds of millions of people in the world living in extreme poverty by minimizing my possessions, my living space, my sources of income, and my participation in capitalism.</p> <p>In those two years, I devoted my personal time to spiritual growth and learning, as well as artistic pursuits, political protest and communal living with other volunteers. I took the first steps of the path that has included nine more years of professional and independent community building experience, a masters degree in social work from Rutgers and an endless sense of reward and purpose in my interactions with my community and various peers.</p>

	<p>I have often recommended Brethren Volunteer Service to people seeking to shift their focus from personal pursuits to community service. Jubilee is one of over 100 organizations with whom Brethren Volunteer Service facilitates a wide array of volunteer projects, such as soup kitchen leadership, mental health counseling, and environmental and human rights advocacy. I continue to hold Brethren Volunteer Service in the highest regard and urge people to consider this type of service to their country and humanity when feeling called to contribute to work that is greater than themselves.</p>
2/5/18	<p>I support participation in non-military service, in order to emphasize the value of nonviolent participation in peaceful efforts to improve our society. I do not support more participation in the military, by anyone for any reason whatsoever! As a young adult, after graduating from university I spent 3-plus years working as a fulltime volunteer with Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS), serving with the International Fellowship of Reconciliation in the Netherlands. BVS is a faith-based volunteer nonprofit organization started by the Church of the Brethren, that places people with projects within the United States and around the world. The goals of BVS are to work toward peace and justice on a variety of levels and in various areas of concern including the environment, education, simple living, care for the elderly and those living with disabilities, etc. The experience I had with BVS has been invaluable to me in my career and work life, and I would recommend it to anyone! As the commission works toward ways to increase the number of Americans involved in public service, please move toward peaceful and nonviolent volunteering as an emphasis, in place of yet more promotion of military violence!</p>
2/5/18	<p>My contribution to public service was as a conscientious objector to military service. I am a member of the Church of the Brethren, which along with the Mennonites and Quakers, are known as the "Historic Peace Churches." Selective Service law provided that conscientious objectors could serve in non-military projects which were "in the national interest." After serving over half a year as a "guinea pig" (normal control patient) for medical research in the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, and the Metabolic Unit of the University of Michigan Hospital, I was assigned to Heifer Project International as visitation representative in Germany. I visited refugee families who had fled ahead of the Russian army and had been resettled in western Germany--and had received a bred heifer from donors in the United States. Their only obligation was to donate the first female calf to another qualified refugee family. One father told me, "It takes a lot of love to give a cow away." On one visit near Nuremburg I took a young German woman with me who had been an exchange student in the United States the previous year. Her boy friend also went with us. He was very anti-American, saying that the Americans bombed their city to ruins, "They won the war just because we ran out of food, but they are still trying to beat us in many ways. One of these is by taking our young people to the States and undermining their thoughts and turning them against their own nation." After we entered the home of the refugee family and had been taken to the adjoining stall to view the American heifer, we returned to the kitchen where I gave the family a box of clothing sent by our church relief center in the United States. I also presented the children with dolls, coloring books, and some crayons. The young man suddenly left and returned with a box of colored pencils which he gave to the boy who received the coloring book. He later</p>

	<p>apologized to me for not having more to give, and said he had planned to use those pencils for his own class in architectural drawing. His girl friend told me later that he told her, "The Americans bombed us and killed us but today I saw something that I had never known of before. We walked into a home like that and saw a heifer standing there that someone in the United States had raised and then given, with no strings attached, to this family. And I saw them receiving clothing, the cut and color clearly denoting that they were from America, plus the American dolls for the children. I don't know what to think," he said, "but I'm thinking." Therefore, while being a conscientious objector to military service I was able, with the aid of donations by generous American church people, to materially assist a former prisoner of war and his family, while demonstrating to a person with a very negative view of the United States, that there is a very positive way of viewing the United States.</p>
2/5/18	<p>I'm sorry. I just submitted my story as a conscientious objector with Heifer Project International in Germany. But I forgot to sign it with name and address:</p> <p>J. Kenneth Kreider</p> <p>██████████</p> <p>Elizabethtown PA ██████████ ██████████ ██████████</p>
2/6/18	<p>As a woman, I was not eligible for the draft. I am, however, a member of the Church of the Brethren and believe it is wrong to serve in the military and that an alternative service option should be offered. In 1970, my newly wed husband and I entered Brethren Volunteer Service to serve his alternative service years.</p> <p>We worked in a secondary school in southern Africa for three years. We then spent five years working with orphans in Morocco, building and teaching in a trade school. My son filed a letter of resistance to eat and a request for concientious objector status as a young teen. We are proud of the option</p>

	offered by our nation for those who object to war to be able to serve in a civilian status. Jailing a person who cannot fight due to conscience is wasteful of our citizen resources.
2/12/18	trying to find out how to register AmeriCorps VISTAs to speak at public session on 2/23 in Harrisburg. Please contact [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].
2/13/18	As an AmeriCorps alum, I am excited to see that this is a priority for our country. My term helped me to be a more productive citizen, grow and change in my career, and help others. Please continue to make this a priority.
2/13/18	I am a Christian and I believe that the teachings of Jesus do not allow me to participate in military actions. Although there is not a draft, I consider myself a conscientious objector and am grateful that the United States government has historically recognized the religious right to offer alternative service to our country, in lieu of military service, when their conscience does not allow for military action. I served abroad, in Colombia South America, for 8 years. I worked with communities who have been displaced by violence and believe encouraging more programs for young people to offer service to help others, both Nationally and Internationally, will unite our country and improve the quality of life for everyone. I encourage you to continue to find ways so that young people can offer public service in lieu of military service. Thank you!
2/15/18	Instead of debating whether women and people from the LGBTQ community, in the name of equality, should be allowed to serve, and whether the selection service (or draft) should apply to all, we should try to eliminated, at least reduce, the military for all, in the name of equality.
2/16/18	1. I believe having a registration for selective service keeps the topic relevant. As young Americans are required to sign up, they are hopefully looking into what it is, exactly, that they are signing up for. This ought to help keep the discussion alive -- "We need to have a back-up plan and, guess what, you are part of that plan!"2. Probably... not sure what though.3. Through our education systems -- including allowing recruiters (all kinds) on campus (by law they already are but many schools do not honor that requirement, or they marginalize the opportunity thus making the visit moot)4. Partly public perception, the media5. Yes... being a part of something bigger than one's self or self interests has an enlightening effect6. No, there are those who will not be able to serve... and if this were as compulsory as the question may indicate, we would get marginal results because of the extra weight of non-performers7. My thoughts, unfortunately, are drawn toward Hollywood, professional athletes, famous people, and the rich... these people dominate our nation's narrative and can choose to focus that narrative away from themselves (I know, a heavy lift) and on to the importance of public service
2/17/18	Commissioners, I am opposed to the draft and to draft registration. It is a program from another era whose cost bears no benefit. Our volunteer military serves us well, and it is our obligation to pay our soldiers a wage which will make the career attractive to both men and women. We have been prosecuting several wars at once over the last nearly 2 decades and a reasonable view of the future suggests that any larger conflicts than these will not be fought in the boots on the ground style of WWII on which Selective Service registration is based. It is time to end the program.
2/18/18	Why are all the Commissioners white? More black and brown skinned military service persons died proportionally than whites. Also please review foreign policy and return of the draft with many fewer deferments. If college deferments were eliminated, privileged families would be significantly more involved in the conversation. Reinstate the draft immediately so sacrifices are shared among all classes. Your task is not PR but critical to who we are and whether we deserve to be a great nation. Curry First [REDACTED]

2/20/18	I am vehemently opposed to this commission and believe that you are tricking Americans into believing that they are just helping out. Sen. McCain & Obama forced this in after Trump was elected. Women would not be allowed to be on their church committee. Women would be forced into military service. This would be MANDATORY FOR WOMEN 18-26 yrs old. Stop funding for this commission and simply allow women to join military voluntarily.
2/20/18	Let me preface my comments with fact that I am a retired USAF SrNCO. The draft should be kept but only during extreme national security needs. As long as we continue requiring women to sign up for selective service, I see no need to change this process. In regards to public service. I absolutely believe that compulsory military service is a horrible idea. I would support voluntary service with other non profit organizations in exchange for college tuition at a local Community College. I believe that 2 years of volunteer service can be worth 18-24 college credits. This would help students with ever increasing college costs. Non profits benefit with a steady man power pool for projects, particularly for groups such as Habitat for Humanity that depend on manual labor volunteers. Service teaches job skills, accountability, responsibility, integrity, self discipline to our young people. Too many youth and young adults do not have a grasp on these concepts; these concepts are tremendous attributes for them to have in the professional world. Not to mention the value of being a part of something bigger than themselves. The world has a huge need for people to step up and help others. I would fully support tax dollars being! spent to provide college tuition payments to those students who 1 or 2 years to non military service. This decrease in costs to them will directly transfer into less student loan debt which will directly help the mental health of many since they will have less debt and therefore less anxiety or stress about graduating. In today's world where nothing is free and many people have the attitude of "what's in it for me?", I don't believe that we can expect many people to have truly altruistic intentions. Many young people will have an expectation of a benefit. If Congress is serious about promoting a service minded generation, there needs to be serious discussion about tuition or some type of other benefit. There needs to be some discussion about living expenses for those who are volunteering. Should a tax credit be given to the parents of those adult children who are living with them during this service time, a credit more than just "child ! tax credit" because now the child tax credit wouldn't apply. Their child will be dependent on them for support, so a credit should be due them.

2/20/18	<p>As a conscientious objector to war, in all forms, I choose to serve my fellow human beings but not in the form of military service. I was discharged from active duty Air Force after 13 years of active and inactive service due to the dictates of my conscience. I served and still do serve others, but choose to do so outside of militarized constructs. I firmly do NOT support the idea of a selective service system and believe very strongly in allowing young men and women to decline from registering, without retribution, due to their personal beliefs and following their conscience. Instead of implementing efforts to figure out ways for young, innocent men and women to serve in the military why not utilize this energy towards developing and encouraging application to more programs like America Corps and Peace Corps? Or, in efforts to keep peace within this world, why not devote energies into developing a non-combative, global Peace Force? Young men in women would surely sign up for an organization who's mission is Peace as opposed to war. Changing the way we look at an organized Force and it's mission might better help this commission to understand why people serve. Albert Einstein explained that if we ask a light particle a wave like question it will behave like a wave particle AND, if we ask a particle of light a different question it can also behave like a particle that moves in a straight line. So, it all depends on the questions we ask...therefore, I strongly encourage this national commission to ask the question: What kind of force are we asking young men and women to sign up for and serve, one that promotes Peace or one that promotes war?</p>
2/20/18	Hello, will this be mandatory?

2/20/18	<p>Dear Commissioners, While US history may be a history of almost-continuous wars, it is no less a history of war refusers. The US since its inception was a haven in the world for freedom of religion which often incorporated war refusal into the consciences, study, and doctrine of members of the traditional peace churches. I should point out to you Commissioners that among religionists, America has seen the Amish here in Pennsylvania; Roman, Greek, and Russian Catholics; Quakers; Mennonites with 1.5 million current believers; Brethren; Hutterites; Doukhobors; Molokans; Jews; 1.2 million Jehovah's Witnesses; 1.1 million Seventh Day Adventists; 200,000 Unitarian Universalists; Baha'i; Sufis; 50,000 Nation of Islam; Muslims; and a million Pentecostals, among other war resisters. These believers, even today, do not have inconsequential demographics. No fewer were political war refusers who had reached this ethical position for the greater good of us all. Socialists of many kinds; student revolutionaries; Black Lives Matter; Latino farm workers; and anarchists, to name a few. With the advent of Occupy Wall Street or anti-globalization protest, can you imagine these folks would sign up for war? High school and university students? Think you can put these genies back in the bottle, cow these Americans by force of law? You may want to reconsider. The US created a system for conscientious objection to military service but then made it so restrictive only traditional objectors could take advantage of it. In particular, a man needed to be a pacifist and oppose all wars. Of course, this system left out many men. These absolutist objectors then chose prison over war. Even though Civilian Public Service from 1941 through 1947 made alternatives available to COs, many young men refused to cooperate and many others walked away. The draft is a feudal press-gang running continuously in the U.S. since 1940. Under such compulsion, there will always be those who walk away. My very best birthday present ever was the ending of the US war on Vietnam on April 30, 1975. I was the last man arrested for the Vietnam draft, in December 1976. And pardoned by President Jimmy Carter on January 22, 1977. In the process, the US war machine robbed me of my country. I moved to Canada and lost many of my ties with the US. I will refrain from presenting the argument here that, just maybe, we should not be fighting all these wars, or any, until we solve America's own problems, that \$700 billion could be better spent on social services and humanitarian efforts. But I can tell you for a fact that, if registration for military conscription is mandatory, as it is today, a great percentage of young citizens will continue to evade this requirement by refusing to register or making themselves impossible for government's computers to find. Military service has been touted since Vietnam as a way out of poverty, a route to a practical education, employability, and economic security. I think that's nonsense, of course, but just suppose government made such education and training a reality but in the civilian sphere, at a fair, living wage with a pension plan? I believe young people would sign up, voluntarily, in droves. What about training for nonviolent civilian defense which can actually protect us all? I hope this Commission is honestly considering ending draft registration. I refused to register in 1968 and I'd refuse today. I would always choose prison over war and there are many more like me. We need fewer troops, more public service at home, and more relief efforts overseas. Let's make that available to our next generation, not compulsory. Accomplishing this teaches our young people peace instead of war. We finally have the opportunity to do the right thing, to strike our own path, irrespective of conscription in any other country. Selective Service should rest...in peace. It's time to put an end to the draft in America, once and for all. No registration, no draft of men, women, or professionals. Return us the freedom on which our nation was founded. peace&freedom, As a final note, I wish to mention that I will make myself fully available for consultation with the Commission over this issue.</p>
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2/21/18	<p>1. No. Selective Service should be replaced by a universal public service program with civilian as well as military options. 2. Yes. Repeal and replace Selective Service with National Public Service for all young men and women. 3. Congress can pass a law requiring all Americans at 18 to serve their nation either in a civilian organization (Teacher Corps, public works like the CCC did, social services, etc.) or a military organization for 18-24 months. The pay and benefits for both civilian and military service should be comparable. 4. Right now, the outdated Selective Service Act requires only males to register. National Public Service should be a requirement for all, regardless of gender. Another barrier is the need to get employment, either immediately or in deferment by going to qualifying training and education. 5. Yes. Witness the fact that public service is more and more a requirement in high school and college. It brings people together, often in ways they would not experience if left to their own choices, to accomplish common results. Individuals are exposed to new ideas, different value systems, people with different backgrounds - elements of America as a whole that are not seen in homogeneous communities and neighborhoods. We also see a serious lack of work ethic and basic job skills in young people, which could be instilled and mentored in this program. 6. Yes. Like the good work done by the Civilian Conservation Corps, the later Youth Conservation Corps and the Civilian Public Service units of WWII, contributions were made to America's infrastructure and institutions that would not have been possible through the normal funding process. 7. This should be "how can," not "how does." Young adults need to be able to have financial support in the post-secondary years. A National Public Service program with uniform pay and benefits would provide that opportunity, and give work experience, while they are sorting out their future directions. I am concerned that the Commission, as presently constituted, appears to be heavily weighted toward people who are familiar with, and will probably support, military options for service. I worry about the Commission having a "tunnel vision" that will not give consideration to the right of conscientious objection. I also am concerned that the traditional biases of the military will prevent a truly universal opportunity to serve the nation from being developed (gender equity, all abilities, etc.). Finally, I fear that the civilian, nonmilitary options that are developed will be step-children - poorly funded, poorly paid afterthoughts that do not truly recognize and appreciate the service being rendered.</p>
2/21/18	<p>When will this survey/poll close? Thank you Christine Ashley Quaker Field Secretary Friends Committee on National Legislation</p>
2/21/18	<p>While I believe that we should serve our country and that our country should also serve us, the devil is in the details. I oppose forced service, especially if it singles out one gender. The current draft registration policy, in effect since 1980, is a blatant example of misandrist (anti-male) sexism. While able-bodied childless women don't have to register, handicapped men and young fathers do. This is WRONG! There is no way I will help the government to enforce such a sexist law. I would also feel the same way about a female-only draft sign up law. Secondly, I oppose compulsory military service for either gender when we are not at war or in any danger of being attacked. Our country, as the late Martin Luther King, Jr. warned, is the world's greatest perveyer of violence. I fear that the real purpose behind the movement to reinstate mandatory service is not to serve the genuine security needs of our country but to increase the likelihood of another reckless foreign adventure like both the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, both of which relied heavily on draftees. Without the draft, the Cold War elite in the Truman and Johnson Administrations would not have had enough military personnel to sustain the wars over there as long as they did. By eliminating the draft, war protesters forced the U.S. to get out of Vietnam due to lack of numbers. Who would run this mandatory service system? Would it be ultra-hawkish individuals like the Neoconservatives, either civilian or military? Or will people with a genuine respect for civilian authority run it? I fear the hawks will run it. These hawks occupy not only the Pentagon but our major corporations. Would such a conscription program be used for breaking up labor strikes as Truman had attempted unsuccessfully to do during the 1946 railway strike? Only the U.S. Senate and the U.S. Supreme Court prevented Truman and the Lower House from enacting such a law. Would such a service program divert our country from its genuine needs such as redistributing wealth downward to promote a more egalitarian society, fixing up our infrastructure (especially</p>

	<p>rails and other land transport), reviving our public school system by eliminating greedy privatization (charter schools), reforming our racist and classist criminal justice system to stop both killer-cops and cop-killers, etc.? The only thing I could agree with some of the supporters of your proposed program is to include women in any draft registration/conscription. Otherwise, I will have to oppose your agenda as I don't think it has any thing to do with genuine national service. Rather, I think the Commission on Military, National, and Public Service is simply a power grab by the oligarchs that run this country to simply increase their ruling power at the expense of everybody else. Bill Delzell [REDACTED] Albuquerque, NM [REDACTED]</p>
2/21/18	<p>I am a veteran of the US Army and absolutely opposed to any revival of a draft. All a renewed draft will accomplish is provide cannon fodder for our endless wars.</p>
2/21/18	<p>I am a veteran of the US Army and absolutely opposed to any revival of a draft. All a renewed draft will accomplish is provide more cannon fodder for our endless wars. Murray Polner [REDACTED] Great Neck, NY [REDACTED]</p>
2/21/18	<p>1. I do not believe that the draft is necessary. It is biased and unfair. If there is not enough people to serve, maybe we ought to consider that people do not support the involvement. 2. If individuals believe in the cause they can volunteer 3. By reducing the number of places of involvement, we will not need the numbers and can pay others more. We need to stay out of foreign countries business. Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq, plus many more. Pattern our military on other countries that are not involved in conflicts. 4. We should not be involved in other countries. America has become very egotistical and feels that we must be in charge of everything. 5. Peaceful service has value. We need to help not murder. 6. There should not be mandatory service. If you believe - participate. The military is over funded and that money could be put to use to peacefully assist others. We would find we had far more influence than with hate and murder. 7. Help people rather than murder.</p>
2/21/18	<p>Comments by item number. 1. Yes it should include cybersecurity professionals 2. Age restrictions should be lifted as many professionals in technical careers are above the draft/enlisting age, these professions require decades of study not reaching a peak before mid 40s. 3. A partnership with the private industry specifically in cybersecurity can be useful, considering professionals ability to keep their living status and will to serve their country. If private sector can keep jobs and compensation while cybersecurity pros serve this will definitely open the door to huge amount of talent. 4. The barriers are loss of compensation which harms family dependents, also private sector has a number of stipulations (Moonlights) where it is practically impossible to anything outside a job that can get you fired. Private sector must be compelled to contribute. 5. Service has enormous value, many of us see things we cant help and feel powerless to do so because of limitations in the government and private sector barriers. 6. Yes, some sort of MIL/CYBER/CIVIL service should be mandatory even more with our current challenges in education. 7. Build a bridge for those who serve to continue life and careers after service. I personally try to hire and seek to help many people that served because of the discipline and learning habits they acquired during service. A service also like other countries where you can leave during certain times without losing your job or not seeing your family may also ease the resistance to serve. One more thing. U.S should embrace "Assimilation" in the sense of giving opportunities and opening the doors to civilians that may have not</p>

	<p>chosen to do a military career in their youth but want to contribute and serve once they have completed their education, or are in senior stages of a civilian career that can definitely help the country. An specific case will be for cyber security professionals.</p>
2/21/18	<p>If you want to increase participation in the military than make it a choice for people to be on a potentially draft list, not a mandatory law with penalties of imprisonment for saying no.</p>
2/21/18	<p>1. A military draft or draft contingency is no longer a necessary component of U.S. national security. The US lacks the political will to reinstitute a draft. Furthermore, in our fast moving world, the slow draft processes designed for previous wars lacks the immediacy and flexibility suitable for the twenty-first century.</p> <p>2. Continuing the Selective Service in any form is a waste of tax dollars and a prime example of a once vital government program continuing long after its need has ended. Eliminate the program. 3. The US needs a smaller military; efforts to increase the size of the military add nothing to national defense. Improving the attractiveness of public service entails better pay, easier termination of individuals for poor performance (this makes employment more attractive to the skilled and committed), and promotion of a patriotism that inclusively and without arrogance affirms American values such as the rights delineated in the Bill of Rights. 4. Barriers to participation in military, national, or public service include tying promotion to longevity, inadequate pay for skills in demand (e.g., physicians and computer scientists), unwillingness of many military and civil service leaders to take responsibility and exercise initiative, and the difficulty of dismissing the non-productive and incompetent. 5. The inherent value of service is that for many people contributing to a cause greater than self is intrinsically rewarding. 6. Although mandatory service for all Americans may be valuable, the nation lacks the political will and sense of civic duty to make such service feasible. 7. Increasing the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve is the responsibility of families, civic organizations, local institutions, and schools. This task is not the responsibility of the federal government and for the federal government to undertake this task would diminish individual and community responsibility and identity, both of which are essential for democracy to thrive in the long-term. In sum, the time has come to abolish the Selective Service System and to thank its employees and volunteers for their loyal service and valuable contributions in prior decades.</p>
2/21/18	<p>No women in draft! No mandatory service requirement for all Americans! (This would give the appearance of creating the NAZI brown shirts in america.) And what is worse is I have that there has been proposed legislation or regulation prohibiting involvement in church or Christian ministries in the event of a mandatory service requirement. This would make the US army look like North Korea. It would also be a violation of the US Constitution and my oath I took to the Constitution while working for our government. Thank you for your consideration of my comment.</p>

2/22/18	<p>Commissioners: First, my background. My name is Mark Critz. I worked many years for Cong. John Murtha until his death in 2010. I served the next two terms in Congress and was a member of HASC. As a member of the organization, Former Members of the U.S. Congress, I am participating in the "Congress to Campus" program and will be at Hobart & William Smith College from 2/25-2/27. My thoughts: Through DOD contracts, there is direct access to companies, both large & small, that help build the items our military needs and uses. Also, there are a multitude of companies that do work with all branches of the U.S. and state and local governments that add to this overall ecosystem. They present an opportunity to be engaged directly in building a "service" ethos within their organizations and in conjunction with government. Many defense contractors employ former military personnel who've already served but often bring the mentality of continuing service. Many companies already do this and could serve as a foundation to increase the listening base and inspire folks of all ages to join or continue their service to this Nation, in whatever capacity they so choose. Secondly, many colleges & universities already have community service requirements. Just the recognition of these efforts may help spur others to join or start their own initiatives. Lastly, on a personal note, I just found out about the meeting in Harrisburg on 2/23 and will be unable to join in the conversation directly but wish to participate. Please greet Joe for me as I haven't seen him in several years. Please let Mark know I'll be at "his" school, HWS, next week. And please greet Deb for me as she was on HASC staff when I was there and was very helpful to me. Thank you. My contact information is below: Mark S. Critz Exec. Director Rural Development Council PA Dept. of Agriculture 2301 N. Cameron St. Harrisburg, PA 17110 (717) 836-3374, direct mcritz@pa.gov</p>
2/22/18	<p>The problem is not getting young people with critical skills in government service. It is keeping them in. So long as government remains a bureaucratic, frustrating place to work the younger generation will leave. They get their experience and then they move on, usually in search of a way they can make a difference in the world.</p>
2/22/18	<p>1. No!! 2.It needs to be eliminated 3.Stop lying to go to war. Viet Nam was a lie, over 50,000 killed, Iraq was a lie, over 5,000 killed and counting 4.When our government lies to justify a war why would anyone want to join. 5.None that I found, unless learning how to kill people is a value 6.Not feasible, the rich, all senators, and representatives kids would be able to avoid it 7. See answers 3 and 4</p>

2/23/18	<p>Dear Commissioners, While US history may be a history of almost-continuous wars, it is no less a history of war refusers. The US since its inception was a haven in the world for freedom of religion which often incorporated war refusal into the consciences, study, and doctrine of members of the traditional peace churches. I should point out to you COMmissioners that among religionists, America has seen the Amish here in Pennsylvania; Roman, Greek, and Russian Catholics; Quakers; Mennonites with 1.5 million current believers; Brethren; Hutterites; Doukhobors; Molokans; Jews; 1.2 million Jehovah's Witnesses; 1.1 million Seventh Day Adventists; 200,000 Unitarian Universalists; Baha'i; Sufis; 50,000 Nation of Islam; Muslims; and a million Pentecostals, among other war resisters. These believers, even today, do not have inconsequential demographics. No fewer were political war refusers who had reached this ethical position for the greater good of us all. Socialists of many kinds; student revolutionaries; Black Lives Matter; Latino farm workers; and anarchists, to name a few. With the advent of Occupy Wall Street or anti-globalization protest, can you imagin these folks would sign up for war? High school and university students? Think you can put these genies back in the bottle, cow these Americans by force of law? You may want to reconsider. The US created a system for conscientious objection to military service but then made it so restrictive only traditional objectors could take advantage of it. In particular, a man needed to be a pacifist and oppose all wars. Of course, this system left out many men. These absolutist objectors then chose prison over war. Even though Civilian Public Service from 1941 through 1947 made alternatives available to COs, many young men refused to cooperate and many others walked away. The draft is a feudal press-gang running continuously in the U.S. since 1940. Under such compulsion, there will always be those who walk away. My very best birthday present ever was the ending of the US war on Vietnam on April 30, 1975. I was the last man arrested for the Vietnam draft, in December 1976. And pardoned by President Jimmy Carter on January 22, 1977. In the process, the US war machine robbed me of my country. I moved to Canada and lost many of my ties with the US. I will refrain from presenting the argument here that, just maybe, we should not be fighting all these wars, or any, until we solve America's own problems, that \$700 billion could be better spent on social services and humanitarian efforts. But I can tell you for a fact that, if registration for military conscription is mandatory, as it is today, a great percentage of young citizens will continue to evade this requirement by refusing to register or making themselves impossible for the government's computers to find. Military service has been touted since Vietnam as a way out of poverty, a route to a practical education, employability and economic security. I think that's nonsense, of course, but just suppose government made such education and training a reality but in the civilian sphere, at a fair, living wage with a pension plan? I believe young people would sign up, voluntarily, in droves. What about training for nonviolent civilian defense which can actually protect us all? I hope this Commission is honestly considering ending draft registration. I refused to register in 1968 and I'd refuse today. I would always choose prison over war and there are many more like me. We need fewer troops, more public service at home, and more relief efforts overseas. Let's make that available to our next generation, not compulsory. Accomplishing this teaches our young people peace instead of war. We finally have the opportunity to do the right thing, to strike our own path, irrespective of conscription in any other country. Selective Service should rest... in peace. It's time to put an end to the draft in America, once and for all. No registration, no draft of men, women or professionals. Return us the freedom on which our nation was founded. As a final note, I wish to mention that I will make myself fully available for consultation with the Commision over this issue.</p>
2/23/18	<p>How do we ensure that our service programs are inclusive and welcoming to everybody - especially marginalized communities - people of color, LGBT folks, people with disabilities, and those who are underserved or lack the support system to commit to service.</p>
2/23/18	<p>I think exposure to youth is really important for service. I grew up in a family that has corporate careers so the words "service" and "military" were never mentioned. Had I known about the experience of being in the military, I could have joined.</p>
2/23/18	<p>How does the Commission distinguish between public service and community service? Public service tends to be paid, i.e., fire, police, VISTA, AmeriCorps... Community service tends to equal volunteer hours.</p>

2/23/18	Cost of higher education is rising - demand to have a higher ed degree is not. The number of young people who are unsure about what to do next (after high school or after college) is going to increase. Making the right decision when accessing higher ed is vital, and engaging with AmeriCorps VISTA can give skills/experiences to help make that happen.
2/23/18	VISTA members provide capacity building support to orgs that are a necessity to their communities. They double, triple, quadruple the amount of money for their orgs as well as what was invest in them. Better funding for AmeriCorps members is one of the smartest and most logocal and economical investments the government can make.
2/23/18	Tax exemptions on Ed Awards. Programs such as NCCC that don't require college degrees provide access to people without avenues to social mobility - also provide alternatives to youth entering college without knowing what they want to do and accruing debt.
2/23/18	I believe Selective Service should be gender equal. I believe Selective Service should be used to track mandatory 6 month service to country. Does not have to be military.
2/23/18	Awareness issues in local communities which could receive support through military, national, and public service. Widen definition of who can serve and what constitutes service.
2/23/18	Our youth want to serve in AmeriCorps, but housing is always an issue living on the small stipend.
2/23/18	Advertise. Start in the grade and middle schools with young volunteers telling their stories.
2/23/18	I am a conscientious objector to war. This is a faith conviction coming out of my commitment to follow the teaching of Jesus Christ, to love my neighbor, even the enemy. My conscientious objection conviction also comes from my historic peace church tradition in which I am a member of the Brethren in Christ. As such, I oppose to the fore mentioned reasons, I believe moral integrity is sacrificed when war is carried out through armed conflict. Justice and truth are silenced through a weaponized struggle. Bringing back the draft, even if that were to level the playing field by including women, is not the answer. But more than that, the United States Armed Forces needs to re-imagine conflict resolution. There are more creative ways to serve than by to fight war than by killing people. Instead of being willing to die for your country in war, how would it be if the United States gained the high moral ground through truth and conciliation commissions which address historic harm, through economic development, and by working for peace through justice?

2/23/18	<p>Dear Commissioners, While US history may be a history of almost-continuous wars, it is no less a history of war refusers. The US since its inception was a haven in the world for freedom of religion which often incorporated war refusal into the consciences, study, and doctrine of members of the traditional peace churches. I should point out to you Commissioners that among religionists, America has seen the Amish here in Pennsylvania; Roman, Greek, and Russian Catholics; Quakers; Mennonites with 1.5 million current believers; Brethren; Hutterites; Doukhobors; Molokans; Jews; 1.2 million Jehovah's Witnesses; 1.1 million Seventh Day Adventists; 200,000 Unitarian Universalists; Baha'i; Sufis; 50,000 Nation of Islam; Muslims; and a million Pentecostals, among other war resisters. These believers, even today, do not have inconsequential demographics. No fewer were political war refusers who had reached this ethical position for the greater good of us all. Socialists of many kinds; student revolutionaries; Black Lives Matter; Latino farm workers; and anarchists, to name a few. With the advent of Occupy Wall Street or anti-globalization protest, can you imagine these folks would sign up for war? High school and university students? Think you can put these genies back in the bottle, cow these Americans by force of law? You may want to reconsider. The US created a system for conscientious objection to military service but then made it so restrictive only traditional objectors could take advantage of it. In particular, a man needed to be a pacifist and oppose all wars. Of course, this system left out many men. These absolutist objectors then chose prison over war. Even though Civilian Public Service from 1941 through 1947 made alternatives available to COs, many young men refused to cooperate and many others walked away. The draft is a feudal press-gang running continuously in the U.S. since 1940. Under such compulsion, there will always be those who walk away. My very best birthday present ever was the ending of the US war on Vietnam on April 30, 1975. I was the last man arrested for the Vietnam draft, in December 1976. And pardoned by President Jimmy Carter on January 22, 1977. In the process, the US war machine robbed me of my country. I moved to Canada and lost many of my ties with the US. I will refrain from presenting the argument here that, just maybe, we should not be fighting all these wars, or any, until we solve America's own problems, that \$700 billion could be better spent on social services and humanitarian efforts. But I can tell you for a fact that, if registration for military conscription is mandatory, as it is today, a great percentage of young citizens will continue to evade this requirement by refusing to register or making themselves impossible for the government's computers to find. Military service has been touted since Vietnam as a way out of poverty, a route to a practical education, employability and economic security. I think that's nonsense, of course, but just suppose government made such education and training a reality but in the civilian sphere, at a fair, living wage with a pension plan? I believe young people would sign up, voluntarily, in droves. What about training for nonviolent civilian defense which can actually protect us all? I hope this Commission is honestly considering ending draft registration. I refused to register in 1968 and I'd refuse today. I would always choose prison over war and there are many more like me. We need fewer troops, more public service at home, and more relief efforts overseas. Let's make that available to our next generation, not compulsory. Accomplishing this teaches our young people peace instead of war. We finally have the opportunity to do the right thing, to strike our own path, irrespective of conscription in any other country. Selective Service should rest... in peace. It's time to put an end to the draft in America, once and for all. No registration, no draft of men, women or professionals. Return us the freedom on which our nation was founded. As a final note, I wish to mention that I will make myself fully available for consultation with the Commission over this issue.</p>
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2/23/18	<p>My name is Titus Peachey. I am a long-time resident of Lancaster City. I am grateful for this opportunity to offer brief testimony on my own behalf. I grew up in a Mennonite household and church that taught the way of peace and nonviolence as an integral part of our faith. Our ultimate loyalty was to God and the worldwide community of faith. We believed that war violated the very purpose for which we lived...to nurture and respect the image of God in each human being and to build communities of peace that broke down the walls built by nationalism, racism and economic disparity. With these commitments deep in my heart, I dropped out of college in 1970 and went to Vietnam to perform 3 years of alternative service as a conscientious objector to war under the auspices of the Mennonite Church. This I did voluntarily, as I had actually failed my physical examination and was not required to serve. I served alongside dozens of others my age who had been drafted but were also conscientious objectors who volunteered to do their service in Vietnam. There were also many young women who had no been drafted, but also served voluntarily in Vietnam as an expression of their commitments to service and peace. From these experiences I offer these comments on service: The most meaningful service is voluntary, not mandatory. Conscientious objectors to war are willing to serve in dangerous places and can make significant contributions to the peaceful and secure world that we all desire. The present-day requirement to register with Selective Service should be abandoned, as it only exists to support a return to mandatory conscription which I oppose. It also creates additional burdens for some conscientious objectors who cannot cooperate with a system that would send conscripts to war. I support incentivizing voluntary peaceful service under civilian direction. This already exists. Let's expand it greatly and create a culture of voluntary service.</p>
2/23/18	<p>Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? NO Are modifications to the selective service system needed? YES How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? Forgive student loans, Forgive other personal debts, provide reliable insurance and health care throughout life, reform the way veterans are treated as they are neglected horribly. What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? Loss of sovereignty and choice when it comes to morality and principles. Also corruption is rampant. Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? ONLY if it is intrinsic and not coerced. Inherent value cannot be prescribed by extrinsic factors. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? NO. That would be the opposite of a democracy. How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? Eliminate corruption in government. No one wants to serve corrupt institutions.</p>
2/23/18	<p>1. No 2. No opinion 3. Competitive Pay 4. I don't know 5. I learned how to fold cloths. I also was sent to electronic technician school, which did help when I was discharged. 6. No, No and No 7. See #3 We do NOT need a peacetime draft.</p>
2/23/18	<p>End mandatory draft registration</p>
2/23/18	<p>I think draft registration is no longer necessary because the US is not at war. IF we are candid about our war status, perhaps there would be justification for a draft, but at present our nation is not candid. If there is a need for draft registration it should include young women as well as young men. Community service option needs to be available for those whose religious beliefs preclude military service.</p>
2/23/18	<p>Continuing draft registration makes it far too easy to engage in "voluntary" wars, wars of aggression, wars for empire. It permits the U.S. to stay on a permanent war footing. If there were a real war where the U.S. was invaded in some manner, there would be no problem getting people to volunteer. I could support a draft for required non-military civic service for all young able-bodied people, in exchange for which part or all of their further education would be paid for.</p>

2/23/18	The draft is outdated, unfair and needs to be abolished. People should be able to choose for themselves whether a war is worth fighting, not what politicians decide.
2/23/18	1. Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? No. 2. Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Yes. Abolish it. 3. How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? Stop all imperialist actions - stop all military actions in other countries, close all foreign military bases, stop all actions to force exploitative capitalism on other countries, stop being the enforcer for the international capitalist elite, stop all racism and sexual abuse in the military, stop all military environmental degradation. 4. What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? See #3. 5. Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? Solely domestic defense. 6. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? No. People will only serve for domestic defense. 7. How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? See #3.
2/23/18	The draft has proven totally unnecessary--volunteers are proving sufficient.
2/23/18	The draft is not a necessary component because we have a good flow of young people volunteering. You get the best of the crop from a Volunteer Armed Forces than one by conscription.
2/23/18	I'm a former high school teacher and counselor, and a former college instructor. Some of my beautiful students have been disabled and killed in our wars. There shouldn't be a thing called war. It should not be necessary. So much damage is done, and the only ones who benefit are always banks and the Weapons Industry. Please don't take the livers of our healthy young students or turn them into only ghosts of human beings.
2/23/18	No draft.
2/23/18	End draft registration NOW! Why should we be forced into wars that never end, wasting money sorely needed for our own citizens' healthcare and education? If you need volunteers, the only way to get them is by making a peace-keeping force and not dragging them into wars that can't be won.
2/23/18	PLEASE END THE DRAFT REGISTRATION.
2/23/18	Selective Service should have a CO conscientious objector box to check. FAFSA forms should not require registration. National Service would be fine, but requiring military service will not work. As long as the USA continues these mad wars across the world, good citizens must resist draft or registration for a draft.
2/23/18	End draft registration. In a democracy, individuals should have the choice to serve or not serve based in their personal and political beliefs.
2/23/18	There is too much corruption in government and too many wars are fought against the will of the people. For instance, Bush's war in the Middle East simply allowed the transfer of the oil industry to corrupt corporations. The people in the Middle East are having THEIR natural resource plundered by unethical and dirty corporations. Personally I am in a family who have military service members. However, I own no guns and do not believe in gun ownership. I was unwilling to ever shoot a gun or shoot a person. It is ingrained in my being that I help and not hurt people. No one should be forced to carry a weapon if they are so fundamentally against it that they refuse to join the military to save their own life. I was abused by my family, yet I made the decision to wait it out in order to be able to go to college under my own financial means.
2/23/18	2 yes 5 No, growth of imperialism 6. No . 7. reduce force

2/23/18	<p>Look at the wars we send the troops to fight. They benefit no one except the plutocrats. Thousands of Americans have been killed and thousands more wounded. Suicide rates are astronomical. The last truly justified war we fought may have been the War of 1812 or perhaps the Civil War. We kill millions of innocents and wound millions more in our wicked wars. We deprive people of fuel, power, water, medicine, schools, hospitals, education, etc. We ruin their countries. Open your eyes! There is absolutely no threat of any conventional attack on the US. No other countries, themselves or collectively, have the expeditionary forces to mount an attack on us. We do not need the conventional forces that we have. Far less would suffice. The various provocations we commit greatly increase the risk of an ill-conceived or accidental nuclear war. We must mount a friendly, non-belligerent, and genuine campaign for peace. Any kind of compelled service is an abominable assault on freedom. We're supposed to be dedicated to freedom, among other things. It is no surprise that few young Americans want to go off to war to kill and be killed by poor people in far off lands who can do us no harm. Furthermore, the plutocrats are running down the economy for all but themselves. Why would anyone want to sacrifice anything for them?</p>
2/23/18	<p>I don't think anyone should be "drafted". If Americans don't sign up to fight then maybe we shouldn't be fighting. The age to join the military should be 21. The military should not be allowed to solicit in our schools. If what the military does in the world is right, you won't have to worry about people joining. Also, why would anyone join when we see so many homeless vets and vets with PTSD. Take great care of the vets, guarantee better benefits and pay them well and you'll get more people to join. Compulsory service would be UNACCEPTABLE.</p>
2/23/18	<p>Having a military draft system in place is tantamount to human slavery. My government cannot force me to work as a doctor or a lawyer or an engineer or a teacher or a janitor or a construction worker or in any other profession or job. Therefore, it does not have the right to force me to give up several years of my life working in the military. I get to choose how to spend my working life, not the government. We need to abolish any vestige of the selective service system. If the US is ever again involved in "a just war" as WWII was, there will be plenty of enlistees. In the meantime, America needs to make do with a volunteer military.</p>
2/23/18	<p>We give great credence to individual liberty and yet the selective service takes away that freedom. Politicians start wars that serve the economic interest of the military industrial complex. This years budget is 716 billion dollars. A renewed draft would only supply more bodies to fight more wars. We have been way too long in the Middle East and Afghanistan. A renewed draft would only give more troops for another surge which strategy hasn't worked yet. If a selective service system must continue then individuals should be allowed to choose between military service or some form of public service. Some of us don't believe in killing and should not be persecuted for our beliefs. In closing I will say that the military draft during the Vietnam era changed my life in many ways and not all of them for the better. I do not wish to see anyone go through that again or die in a war they don't believe in just because some politician or general thinks it's a just cause.</p>
2/23/18	<p>1. No 2. Yes. It should be decommissioned. It is a waste of taxpayer's money. It is a waste of my hard-earned money. 3. How about mobilizing people to address global climate change and it's effects. 4. Needless foreign wars like the one in Afghanistan which has dragged on for 16 years. 5. There can be value in serving the community by providing help after disasters such as the hurricanes and floods in Texas, Puerto Rico and other places. 6. No. 7. Having ways of serving which do not involve military adventures overseas.</p>

2/23/18	I oppose registration with the Selective Service. I believe all mentally capable persons in the US should, at age 18 or upon graduation from high school, do two years of public service activity, which may be military if that is the choice of the individual. The two years might be Peace Corps or VISTA type activities, or environment-focused, or hospital/nursing home work, or similar character-building work of value to the country as well as the individual. Those serving would receive a stipend sufficient for their needs, including health care. At the conclusion, they would be admitted to two years free education in a community college or vocational training program, also including health care.
2/23/18	The draft and having to register, is in every way possible, a violation of everyone's personal freedom. To demand that someone fight in a war that they don't agree with, approve of, or even if it's a matter of personal morality, is the exact opposite of freedom. Making criminals out of young men and possibly women who morally disagree with war, for standing their ground and doing what they feel right is deplorable. It is time to do away with the draft.
2/23/18	End draft registration. I was in the high school class of 1980, the year it began. It's time to end it
2/23/18	Stop forcing people to put themselves at risk of being forced to kill or be killed for empire, greed, and powerlust! Eliminate selective service completely!
2/23/18	A military draft is tantamount to SLAVERY - involuntary servitude at a task not of one's voluntary choice. As what purports to be a "Free" nation, our government should not engage in keeping slaves, whether they are called that, or 'soldiers'. Choosing who to enslave by lottery is still slavery, especially when one is forced to participate in the lottery. For this reason, there should NEVER be a draft or other involuntary servitude imposed on American Citizens, and the selective service and any related registration system should be abolished completely. A nation that can not survive with the VOLUNTARY and WILLING support of it's citizens to perform any needed tasks related to national security or other needs should question whether it is properly serving the needs of it's citizens, and what changes it should make in order to gain that support.
2/23/18	War profiteers want war for profit. That is not the same as "national security".....though some twist and torque logic and words to make us think it is when they want to profit with weapons or fossil fuels to send other persons' children into hell. Ironically, those that send others to war, to hell sit far above the conflict that is filling their privatized, deregulated bank accounts with deadly cashflow floods of weapons and fossil fuels choking U.S.. But they do not have the right to crush nature's fragile but critical ability hiding in fragile but critical living cells, seeds, seedlings, soils, selves, whole living systems to reach up toward light of our sun enough to produce 1) abundant riches to count in human terms of words or numbers....and also to grow and produce 2) critical but uncountable flows and cycles of our suns light energy synergy hidden genetic potentials, genius and amazing positive productivity that nature shares freely with us to keep us free from want and free from fear. They do not have the right to crush us, to crush our lives, to crush our lands of nature's genius that we need to grow heaven on earth instead. Yet liars tell us that we need to crush the ability of nature to grow heaven on earth and to cause hell to "profit" with deadly cashflow floods crushing us. Enough. Enough lies. Just End the Lies Now. We need a "Department of Peace" instead, please. Thanks. Think about it with our civil upper thinking brain....and stop igniting emotional button firestorms of our most primitive explosive lower brain...as Trump is trying to start wars in every corner of our world.
2/23/18	it's not necessary. it only serves warmongers in office and arms makers/dealers. what is necessary is much better healthcare, including mental health of veterans. it needs to help military families as well. we need to look at how we use the military to strong arm other countries to bend to our will and stop the behavior. we need to value life more than we do. we need to figure out ways to help other countries without use of the military. we need to repair the diplomatic service from tRump's damage so war would be the last possible option.
2/23/18	Stop required draft registration, OR stop voluntary service.
2/23/18	The draft is no longer necessary.

2/23/18	<p>There exists no need for a military draft. Any type of a service requirement in the USA should allow for participants to choose how they wish to serve their country. If such a service requirement is to be established, it should include all US citizens between the ages of 18 and 20 with no possibility for deferment regardless of wealth, social status, religion, or familial heritage. The required service period should be for one year with participants able to choose to enter at either age 18 or 19. Education and job-specific training of all individuals required to serve is a critical component. Such service opportunities should include creating and repairing physical infrastructure including transportation systems, water systems, energy systems - especially the installation of clean energy generation on all buildings in all US states and territories and should include the development and deployment of a smart-grid electrical system capable of handling the input and outflow of ! energy generated from and to all who are connected, service to fellow "draftees" in the forms of food service, medical service, and maintaining the quarters to house all "draftees", and could even include upgrading the homes of economically disadvantaged citizens. All service should be focused on a local level, free of interference by corporations. Another option offered should be cleaning up the messes that greedy corporations have perpetrated on the American People. All "draftees" should be paid a living wage that is income tax-free as well as receive free food and housing during their period of service. Social security and Medicare could be deducted. Currently, the military uses a great deal of deception to lure young Americans into the various branches of military service. It then treats them poorly, fails to train them adequately, and when the military is done with them, it has a marked tendency to cheat them out of what was promised to them when they signed up. This leaves thousands of young Americans bitter and angry at their country. The system I have briefly outlined above would be one that would more effectively create pride in one's nation, increase the level of education among all Americans participating in service, and in so doing, greatly enhance our national security. Of course, such a system of required service would entail eliminating the unmitigated greed and outright tyranny that has seized our government from within, causing severe and critical damage to our nation and it's security. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p>
2/23/18	<p>Draft registration should end. It serves no legitimate purpose. If it does not end, people of all sexes and gender identities must be required to register. It is inherently discriminatory to require only biological males to register, and to deny them government benefits if they do not. This unequal system should be abolished or at least made equal.</p>
2/23/18	<p>When you say, "I'm not willing to be drafted", you're saying, "I'm going to make my own choices about which wars we should be fighting", and when you say, "You should submit to the draft", you're saying, "You should let the politicians decide for you." What's happening right now is that a National Commission ... has been appointed to study the question of whether draft registration should be continued, whether it should be expanded to make women, as well as men register for the draft, whether a draft itself should be started, whether there should be some other kind of Compulsory National Service enacted. The Pentagon would say, and it's true, they don't want a draft. It's not plan A, but it's always been plan B, and it's always been the assumption that if we can't get enough volunteers, if we get in over our head, if we pick a larger fight than we can pursue, we always have that option in our back pocket that, "If not enough people volunteer, we're just going to go go to the draft, go to the benches, and dragoon enough people to fight these wars."</p>
2/23/18	<p>END THE DRAFT REGISTRATION!</p>
2/23/18	<p>A draft only insures that we will maintain a war-like approach to helping others. Both are a bad choice.</p>

2/23/18	I was drafted to serve in the US Army prior to the Military-Industrial-Complex-CIA-arranged invasion of Viet Nam under the Johnson-McNamara Gulf of Tonkin ruse. I was honorably discharged having wasted two years of career advancement opportunity. People who know anything about the JFK assassination and the 9/11 Inside Job reality that led to the illegal US invasion of and slaughter in Afghanistan and Iraq should realize that suffering mutilation or death to make the US elite even richer and more powerful is a fool's game under a false label of "patriotism" and "service." Defense of one's country is one thing. Being sacrificed on the altar of corporate and political greed and global-enterprise and control is quite another. One subjects himself to the draft at his/her own peril. "The Wall" in Washington, DC, should provide a clear message! Ask how many sons of politicians and government officials in Washington were mutilated or ! killed in the Vietnam War. How many Americans lost their lives in the inside job that was 9/11?
2/23/18	Please end the requirement to register for the draft.
2/23/18	Just end it now. We have a voluntary military. Congress should only pass a draft if and when there is a clear reason and purpose, and ONLY after that has been established should they consider an appropriate draft as necessary for that purpose that has a defined scope and beginning and end date.
2/23/18	What we have in the United Lobiests of America is a fucking Military Dictatorship. Sure, start drafting young rich kids and your endless fucking illegal wars will end. Side with corporations over We the People is Treason. Selective inforcement of law must be prosicuted as capital crime. Gallows on Whitehouse lawn.
2/23/18	End the draft requirement now.
2/23/18	The draft might work if the first people drafted for the infantry were the Congress, the CEO's and anybody over 60 making over 60.000 a year. That way we would not get unnecessary wars. Public civilian service can be voluntary, starting with mere stipends, room and board, and offering opportunities for salary advancement on merit, and educational initiative by the volunteer. Decent work should be a constitutional right. After two years, civilians in service, such as a Conservation Corp or WPA, would automatically get a decent minimum wage, free educational opportunities, health care, etc., with optional room and board. Public service would compete in a fair way with private corporations, never exceeding 50% of the market for any service. It would stabilize the economy and revive the public trust and goodness. It might help alleviate the national addiction to arms production and sales. An overseas division would help rebuild trust and relationships with other nations ! and make wars unnecessary.
2/23/18	The draft is equivalent to slavery. We need to find other ways that people can serve and contribute to society without having to kill their fellow human beings. Draft registration create a crisis of conscience in people with good hearts and ideals who would otherwise be law-abiding contributing citizens but are now faced with breaking the law or breaking a covenant with their most revered truth. Killing is wrong and war even more so. Please end the legal mandate to register for the draft.
2/23/18	People should serve voluntarily, not be required to do so against their will. A war is not worth waging if the people don't want to fight it. Service has inherent value, but military service does not. The way the US increases interest in serving in the military is to make the actions the military ethical, moral, transparent and inspiring, rather than abhorrent, inhumane and unethical as is currently the case. Spend less time spying, pressuring, bombing and killing, and more time building homes, schools, hospitals, planting crops, preparing for and evacuating from disasters, etc. There is more than enough for the military to do; no need to fight another senseless war where the poor kill, die and lose their mental health for the profit of a few rich white men.
2/23/18	End the draft. Instead, institute national service with a few choices for all youth — community work or military or public service.

2/23/18	The people who send our children to war should have to sit on the front lines everyday until that war is ended. We'll see how many wars are necessary then. The men and women who join our military should not have to suffer at the hands of our "leaders" in Washington DC who give lip service to our armed forces but spend their lives so callously. Bring our people home. Rebuild the U.S. God Bless America the land of peace and prosperity!
2/23/18	It is my opinion that the Military Draft is no longer a necessary aspect of National Security and should be abolished. Harry Blumenthal, Eureka, CA. USA
2/23/18	Please end registration for the draft. It's outdated.
2/23/18	we don't need a military draft.
2/23/18	Our military has turned into the largest terrorist organization on the planet. They are engaged in illegal wars of aggression throughout the planet. They are creating terrorists throughout the Middle East and around the world. We need to stop this insanity. We don't need more military. We need diplomacy. We need leaders not murderers. I'm an army brat and my father fought in WWII under Patten, in Korea and in Vietnam and the Vietnam War destroyed our family as it did this country. The largest export of the U.S. is war and weapons. We are a menace to the rest of the world. This needs to end. We need more peace. Not more military. I am no longer proud to be an American. The U.S. is a disgrace. Our military budget is wasteful and is about paying off weapon suppliers. We sell weapons to anyone. We arm both sides of any conflict. The war in Iraq was built on lies and waged without caution. American arrogance fractured a fragile society and unleashed a sectarian civil war that's proved impossible to bottle back up. The tortured bodies we found, and some that we made, were the refuse of obtuse American fantasies about armed democracy promotion. ? All the poor boys really accomplished in Afghanistan was to secure one square kilometer of land for one short year. Despite the best Petraeus-speak and can-do military rhetoric, we protected exactly zero Afghans. All that effort, fear and violence was for nothing, and seeking to impose a foreign-backed centralized regime in rural Afghanistan has almost no historical track record of success. Just ask the Russians—or the British. ? Military actions and the U.S. gospel of hyper-interventionism doesn't, it turns out, stifle terrorism. Ultimately, foreign armies, by their very nature, generate unrest. American deployments from West Africa to South Asia increased rather than stifled terror acts and terror groups across the region. ? The empire, always, by its very nature, ultimately comes home as our militarized domestic police patrol their beats like occupied territory. We've learned to live with mass incarceration and mass shootings—things that only happen here—as a matter of course. The real terrorism is on our streets, in our schools and lurking among us. We can't lay the blame on immigrants, Muslims or any "other." Guns, violence and slaughter are as American as apple pie."

2/23/18	<p>The Docket number is 2018-03261. My name is Travis Weiner, and my email address is [REDACTED]. I would very much appreciate a follow up and response to my comments. (1) There is no logical, informed, or serious argument that a draft is still a 'necessary component of U.S. national security.' Not only did the Vietnam experience teach us that a draft tears not only the country but in many ways the military apart - by having unwilling people serving - but in the nuclear-deterrence age, the only necessity for a draft is when we are engaged in proxy-wars or wars of choice; not defense of our nation. Historical evidence supports this assertion, period. (2) Modifications are absolutely needed. It needs to be abolished altogether. This would represent an acknowledgement of reality; it is a relic of the past, too often used for illicit and improper purposes -see Vietnam. (3) The United States needs to offer the right incentives for the right kind of work. We need to change the law AND the culture. The only reason that a 'national service' bill, which would for example provide college tuition for many different kinds of national service, is dead on arrival is that the military (and others) know that if it were to pass, its recruitment would suffer significantly. (4) Barriers certainly include this nation's choice - over and over again - to fight misguided wars of choice that make us less-safe, and kill and injure far too many of our men and women, and around the globe. Young people are not blind to this; and it deters them. (5) Service absolutely has inherent value. It is ironic that this commission's work is guided by the President's thoughts on the topic (https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CDOC-115hdoc27/pdf/CDOC-115hdoc27.pdf), when we may have never had a more selfish, non-serving Commander in Chief in the history of this nation. In the military we were taught that leadership starts at the top; it is lacking on this issue, entirely, as our CINC has served no one but himself for his entire life. (6) 'Mandatory' service, as mentioned in # 1, creates a lot of problems. What IS 'valuable and feasible is to switch the incentives - so, for 1, 2 or 3 years of national service of many types (military, medical, construction, teaching, you name it), an individual in this nation could get many of the same educational benefits afforded veterans. We wouldn't NEED to make it mandatory in that case; the problem would solve itself and those signing up would have the drive, and incentive, to do good work and finish. (7) We could begin by changing the culture in this nation surrounding this issue. We need to change an attitude that says 'I have a right to all that America has to offer me.' True citizenship in this nation should be earned, not given. We need to inculcate those values of paying it forward, and heeding the late President Kennedy's famous words, much more often. We are not living up to them, but we certainly should be</p>
2/23/18	<p>End draft registration. Thanks.</p>
2/23/18	<p>1: It depends on how one defines "necessary." The last war with a draft was an unnecessary disaster. The wars since Vietnam have been, also, unnecessary disasters. Those recent wars were without the draft. Maybe WW 2 was a necessary disaster. For national security it might be advisable to have a small volunteer military. I think a draft is unnecessary. 2: If mandatory service was required, it should be universal service with non military options available. 3. There's plenty of work needed to rebuild our infrastructure and serve the peaceful needs of our partner nations. Incentives can be offered to join such service including education and job training. 4: People need a buy in promoting a positive individual and social outcome. Programs need to be life affirming and constructive. Forcing young people into war is always going to be met with resistance. 5: Yes. It makes one feel a valuable part of the whole. 6. No. Service can be encouraged, be valuable and feasible without being mandatory. 7: Great question! Economic, social and educational incentives appealing to idealism and personal development are essential for this to happen. The programs and service must deliver on the promises to increase social good and safety. Anything less would be seen as a betrayal and would put us in the same or worse circumstances that we find ourselves in now. The last time we had a draft, a generation of Americans felt betrayed. When constructing a policy of service it's critical to get it right from the top down. I think it's possible and a better plan to encourage service without a draft.</p>

2/23/18	1. NO!!! The draft is INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE (prohibited by the constitutional amendment that ended slavery. The draft means "BIG GOVERNMENT" owns your body and can FORCE YOU AGAINST YOUR WILL TO KILL OTHER PEOPLE. This is PROFOUNDLY EVIL and VIOLATES HUMAN RIGHTS. It violates American values too. 2. ABOLISH the Selective Service altogether. 3. Pay a decent wage and hire people for useful jobs serving the public service. Requiring "national service" at free or cheap wages is UNCONSTITUTIONAL. That's what dictatorships do. America must be better than that. The remaining questions are answered by my answers to the first three questions.
2/23/18	End draft registration!
2/23/18	End the draft. I will decide myself which wars to fight - government should not have the power to decide this for me, unless I voluntarily sign up for service.
2/23/18	America is not Israel. America Empire continues to destroy other counties for resources and labor. The human brain is not fully developed until 25 years of age. This is clinically proven. American Empire is now destroying human life with armed drones. America continues to cheat the young people of America on the continued drum beat of; "America needs You, to invade another country on America's behalf, so the Banks and Wall Street can continue to dance on the bones of innocents." END WAR!
2/23/18	Our society and our world need demilitarization. We must abolish JROTC and stop teaching our kids to kill. Yes, Nikolas Cruz was trained to kill with our tax dollars! End draft registration and let's prepare the next generation to be global citizens in a peaceful world.
2/23/18	If you stop making wars, you can save lives and save the taxpayers blood and treasure. Nothing is baser than forcing people to take up arms except to enrich defense and oil contractors.
2/23/18	End draft registration.
2/23/18	Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? My answer: NO. Therefore end the Draft Registration process. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? My answer: NO Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? Yes, but ONLY if it is some kind of civil public service that promotes the life-enhancing well-being of the citizenry in general.
2/23/18	Why do we do this?
2/23/18	Drafting anyone is an infringement upon freedom. "Where is it written in the Constitution, in what article or section is it contained, that you may take children from their parents, and parents from their children, and compel them to fight the battles of any war, in which the folly or the wickedness of government may engage it?" -- Daniel Webster (1814)
2/23/18	Military is a drain on our budget, spirit of humanity, and priorities in this country already. The Pentagon budget is out of control at the same time Education and the Department of State, where we learn and practice how to solve problems peacefully, where we learn about other cultures and about needs and how to work together for peace, these important enterprises are being starved. We need to engage other counties in alliances and friendship and problem solving, not drop cowardly drones on them from afar, bomb and shoot and destroy. Service opportunities can be encouraged without mandating conscription. This is touted as a free country, and it is not the military which makes us free. It is education and guaranteed civil and political and human rights. Economic equality would bring more freedom! Right now we have a would-be-dictator who wants an even more bulging military budget, but we feel less free than ever. We feel our voices do not count, our futures do not count, our health is not important, only our tax money is counted and given to the rich, added to their wealth. No conscription, no draft in this country! The United States of America has used war to ravage countless other countries so we can take their mineral resources and other resources for our own corporations and capitalist ventures, adding to the wealth of this nation alone. We have been the wasteful bully of the planet. Let's change direction entirely and be a leader in peace and sharing and

	goodwill, in conservation and development of green energy, a leader in education and healthcare for all. These are what we need to aspire to! We need more teachers and doctors and solar engineers, not soldiers! Being this kind of a country would encourage and inspire volunteers to be part of actual service as in helping others instead of killing "Others," perceived "enemies." It's brain washing and ignorance, learning to kill. Perhaps we need a small military. We need to invest in all these other much more crucial ventures. No draft, no conscription of any kind!
2/23/18	The draft should be permanently ended.
2/23/18	1. no draft necessary 2. please discontinue selective service system (as see 1.) 3. recruit directly - target interviews and incentives 4. money - keep expand loan forgiveness for service 5. YES !!! honor, community, meaning in life 6. necessary =no, valuable service=yes but mandatory= no,, feasible = no 7. see loan forgiveness and increase civil service - other ways to serve (disaster aid and preparedness, reforestation, rebuilding bridges, Ameri-corps, etc etc) Thanks you for asking these questions and listening to the answers
2/23/18	In order of questions: 1)There is no constitutional basis for a Federalized conscription and I don't support it. 2)Yes, abolish the selective service system. 3)The Federal government should have no say on whether or not an individual wishes to do public or military service. It's incredible that a commission would even consider this sort of Fascist idea. 4) What barriers? Military service and government jobs pay better than what someone gets in the private sector. Our soldiers are now mercenary professionals, our government "servants" are our lords. 5)Service should be given by free will of the individual, not mandated at the point of a gun. 6)Service to the empire should be left as a personal decision of each citizen. 7) I can think of many ways to encourage people to serve, the question is serve what? Is fighting undeclared war after war service? Is spending a trillion dollars of money on military programs with money we don't have and have to borrow service? Is helpi! ng mothers have abortions and encouraging poor people to be dependent on the largesse of the Federal government the way to restore the dignity and well-being of the people? I think the commission should recommend abolishment of compulsory service, such as practiced in totalitarian countries presently like the United States, Turkey, Russia and others, and call for a renewed spirit of volunteerism, encouraging this to be channeled locally and not mandated Federally.
2/23/18	As a 68 year old individual, I was part of a high school debate team during the year (1967) when the nation debated mandatory conscription. In the 1960's through early 1970's, men in my generation were subject to the mandatory draft, and it was Hell on them, on families and on society. Obviously, a US military of Americans is important to national security since America has bases located throughout the country, and if Americans were attacked (terrorism, etc., war), mobilization of the military is possible. Most of the foreign use of the US military is strictly about protecting global US interests, and in many ways creates more hatred against Americans than anything else. Mandatory service is not necessary or useful. Attract more individuals of skill and talent by providing excellent training and opportunities to expand knowledge and ability. Show the "social" and "fitness" aspects of the military. Provide benefits to individuals who have ! completed their service, like the GI bills that provided free college and post college training. More young people would want to serve if there weren't 23 veterans committing suicide every day. We must come to grips with why self destruction and suicide are epidemic among returning vets!!!! What went wrong to make that many people give up on life? Also, there are too many good soldiers who have been

	thrown into prison as scapegoats, like Clint Lorraine and others like him. We must stop this kind of inherent unfairness or no one will be willing to submit to the fascism of military service.
2/23/18	I think we need to do away with the Military and all war preparations.
2/23/18	For the commission: Since we have an economic draft in this country, I would support some way to make the system more equitable. I am stridently opposed to a "military-service-only" draft, but would very much support a one or two year "service draft of all youth after college, or high school, if they do not attend college. Service could be done in hospitals, community organizations, schools, nursing homes, and other places in need. The path of military "service" should not stand alone as an option.
2/23/18	Having a military draft system in place is tantamount to human slavery. My government cannot force me to work as a doctor or a lawyer or an engineer or a teacher or a janitor or a construction worker or in any other profession. Therefore, it does not have the right to force me to give up several years of my life to work in the military. I get to choose how to spend my working life, not the government. We need to abolish any vestige of the selective service system. If the US is ever again involved in "a just war" as WWII was, there will be plenty of enlistees. In the meantime, America needs to make do with a volunteer military.
2/23/18	(1) There is no logical, informed, or serious argument that a draft is still a 'necessary component of U.S. national security.' Not only did the Vietnam experience teach us that a draft tears not only the country but in many ways the military apart - by having unwilling people serving - but in the nuclear-deterrence age, the only necessity for a draft is when we are engaged in proxy-wars or wars of choice; not defense of our nation. Historical evidence supports this assertion, period. (2) Modifications are absolutely needed. It needs to be abolished altogether. This would represent an acknowledgement of reality; it is a relic of the past, too often used for illicit and improper purposes -see Vietnam. (3) The United States needs to offer the right incentives for the right kind of work. We need to change the law AND the culture. The only reason that a 'national service' bill, which would for example provide college tuition for many different kinds of national service, is dead on arrival is that the military (and others) know that if it were to pass, its recruitment would suffer significantly. (4) Barriers certainly include this nation's choice - over and over again - to fight misguided wars of choice that make us less-safe, and kill and injure far too many of our men and women, and around the globe. Young people are not blind to this; and it deters them. (5) Service absolutely has inherent value. It is ironic that this commission's work is guided by the President's thoughts on the topic (Caution- https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CDOC-115hdoc27/pdf/CDOC-115hdoc27.pdf < Caution- https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CDOC-115hdoc27/pdf/CDOC-115hdoc27.pdf >), when we may have never had a more selfish, non-serving Commander in Chief in the history of this nation. In the military we were taught that leadership starts at the top; it is lacking on this issue, entirely, as our CINC has served no one but himself for his entire life. (6) 'Mandatory' service, as mentioned in # 1, creates a lot of problems. What IS 'valuable and feasible is to switch the incentives - so, for 1, 2 or 3 years of national service of many types (military, medical, construction, teaching, you name it), an individual in this nation could get many of the same educational benefits afforded veterans. We wouldn't NEED to make it mandatory in that case; the problem would solve itself and those signing up would have the drive, and incentive, to do good work and finish. (7) We could begin by changing the culture in this nation surrounding this issue. We need to change an

	attitude that says 'I have a right to all that America has to offer me.' True citizenship in this nation should be earned, not given. We need to inculcate those values of paying it forward, and heeding the late President Kennedy's famous words, much more often. We are not living up to them, but we certainly should be.
2/24/18	As long as American citizens do not have a vote on whether to engage in the archaic, barbaric, and counter-productive practice of war, they should not be required to register for any possible draft. If we claim to be "fighting for freedom" then we cannot at the same time force citizens to fight in wars that they object to. Freedom demands our being free to declare that the killing of people in other countries is still murder even when our leaders have labeled them our "enemy." If you want more young people to "serve their country" then don't make that phrase synonymous with "going to war" or joining the military complex. Instead, provide peaceful non-violent ways of serving humankind. Cleaning up the environment would be one good way. Or serving in homeless shelters or soup-kitchens, or providing more manpower to volunteer fire-departments...
2/24/18	Service in the military, either voluntary or drafted, has no inherent value. It only allows our nation to wage our endless wars of empire and control.
2/24/18	I am against a military draft. I support programs to pay people to conduct public service projects, like in the New Deal. But any public service should be voluntary.
2/24/18	National security? Who are you kidding? This perpetuation of endless warfare to line the corporate pocket will never be allowed to result in mandatory military service. Young people are on to you. They will not allow it!
2/24/18	Albert Einstein said: The pioneers of a warless World are The youth that refuse military service.
2/24/18	Draft registration should be ended and the Selective Service System abolished. Military conscription is slavery and has no place in a free society.
2/24/18	War is an aberration and should be banned, but too much money is at stake in the Great Industrial War Complex.
2/24/18	Please eliminate the draft. We are a global country that should learn to be diplomatic. Fix our infrastructure, don't send young people to fight interventionist wars of regime change that only benefit the 1%. Please increase funding for the VA-- make those who have sacrificed for the military healthier.
2/24/18	1.Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? Answer: definitely not. 2.Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Answer: Definitely yes. 3.How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? Answer: Most importantly, by trying to make peace insted of war. 4.What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? Answer: A desire for peace in the world. 5.Does

	<p>service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? Answer: No. 6. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? Answer: No. 7. How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? Answer: By asking them to promote peace rather than war.</p>
2/24/18	<p>I firmly believe in compulsory public service for at least two years for all able bodied citizens when they turn 18 years of age. This could be in the military or some form of public/community service like Americorps or a revived CCC. The value derived to both the nation and those individuals is immeasurable.</p>
2/24/18	<p>We have an individual right to choose whether we fight our brothers.</p>
2/24/18	<p>The draft should be imposed in accordance with the person/group who has the most to protect. That is another way of saying that those who have the least to protect should be exempt from military service altogether. Surely the greatest motive to be a defender of the U.S. is to have great amounts of property and wealth which is at risk of being lost to invaders. If those with the greatest amounts to protect refuse to serve in the military, they should be imprisoned at Guantanamo...</p>
2/24/18	<p>I am a 22 year retired veteran. I joined to learn a trade and support my family. After retiring it became apparent to me that most "wars" we are in are NOT to protect us or anyone else, but for mineral, oil and other unnecessary reasons. Although I support our troops, I don't support the war machine, as our young ppl are dying for no good reason! Instead of a Department of War, we should be working on a Department of Peace!!! Enough deaths for our troops and innocent civilians!!! Stop any kind of requirement to sign up for the draft. We can do better for our young people!!! #VeteransForPeace</p>
2/24/18	<p>No, a military draft or draft contingency is not a necessary component of U.S. national security. Continually making war on other countries and building bases on foreign soil harms the interests of national security. The modification to the selective service system that is needed: abolish it. The United States can increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the public service needs of the nation by fully funding programs like Job Corps to meet these needs. Reducing the Pentagon's 50+% share of the federal budget -- most of which flows to their contractors, wealthy weapons corporations -- would provide ample funds for a public service program. What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? Public confidence in the federal government is at an all time low. Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? A mandatory service requirement for all Americans is neither necessary nor valuable. Countries who have such mandatory programs have cultures of obedience that the U.S. lacks. How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? Stop waging illegal, immoral wars on the people of Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and stop supporting allies in illegal, immoral wars on the people of Palestine, Yemen, Indonesia, Ukraine, Phillipines, and many more.</p>
2/24/18	<p>war is just not the answer for any thing</p>
2/24/18	<p>Suggestions for the web site: 1) On the home page, define military, national and public service. I would make the words a link to a pop-up box. I think that most young people do not know exactly what is meant by the word "service". Also, define the difference between national and public service. 2) This is not a big deal, however it is not clear how to get back to the main(home) page from another page. I wouldn't assume that everyone would realize that it can be done by clicking on the logo.</p>

2/24/18	Yes, service has inherent value. But not if one is forced to serve. People should have the right to choose which wars they believe are for the right reasons and whether or not they wish to fight in them. Our military is one of the strongest in the world, almost entirely through voluntary service, and it should remain that way. I can see mandatory training being a good thing for all but not mandatory service.
2/24/18	I want a judicial review regarding my case against the USA government since the Nixon Administration, USA intelligence community, USA cable TV news, radio , online and social media, Americans, USA private sector for putting me on USA to kill list being a victim of hate crimes, torture and abuse of power with no evidence of being a threat to national security and global security for over 40 years since 12 years of age with an apology, financial compensation and justice this month which left me disabled and my brother and friends dead during a 30 year period.
2/24/18	There is a very simple solution: END THE DRAFT. PERIOD.
2/24/18	War is failure. It is the failure of diplomacy and the failure of humanity. 'We the people' must build institutions that foster peace with distributive justice. The USA must stop spending its precious resources on dangerous, dirty and deadly war-profiteering machinations. The USA must leap into the 21st century and join the much more enlightened societies around the globe as a responsible global participant.
2/24/18	* We can only learn from our veterans because they really know. All my veteran friends are members of VETERANS FOR PEACE organizations. * The US has been the #1 global predator since i was born (1950). * I have three GrandBoys in TX, age 13, 11 & 1. They are poor and the youngest one is of Cherokee First Nation. Do you think I want to offer them to the US killing industry? NO. HELL NO. NO. NO. NO. OK. Let's bargain. First, I want for them free health care and free education. Then, they will tell you.
2/24/18	Draft registration must be repealed. It is an infringement of fundamental human rights, encourages war, inculcates habits of deference and subordination, and is incompatible with the realization of our humanity. Mandatory service would do the same, taking an activity most people engage in willingly and turning it into a bureaucratized, empty obligation.
2/24/18	I think we saw during Vietnam that when people who don't choose to serve are drafted, that causes mass protest, draft dodging and years later, homelessness and mental illness. I think this country needs to rethink its role in the world. We need to stop killing innocent people. We need to stop drone wars, mass surveillance, work to reduce nukes, etc.. An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind. But we are also creating terrorists by acting in evil ways towards people that don't look like us or believe the same things we do. No one should be forced to act against their own ethical considerations.
2/24/18	I believe the draft is not a necessary component of US national security. More people would join the military if they were not openly discriminated against (transgender, women, etc). More people might join if they saw we treated our veterans better.
2/24/18	I can't believe it's 2018 and we're even discussing whether reinstating a draft is a good idea. Every piece of data we have points to the ineffectiveness of involuntary military service (hello, Vietnam?), and even if it weren't already a bad idea, the idea of forcing civilians to fight wars for politicians and their corporate financiers is about as Orwellian as it gets. Here's an idea - how about a draft for the politicians? They sure do love the NRA and the military industrial complex, why not have them go fight the wars?
2/24/18	National Service needs to be instituted so that young people can participate in making this a better country. Community service would benefit individuals and give them a sense of responsibility.
2/24/18	1 - NO; 2 - YES, it needs to be discontinued, since it hasn't been employed in decades; 3 - by incentivizing such participation, but not by conscription; 4 - physical, mental, emotional, all need to be included in fitness-to-serve evaluations; 5 - voluntary service can teach skills, provide satisfaction in

	performing a service, and build relationships; 6 - conscription is not necessary, valuable or likely feasible in today's political climate; 7 - same answer as # 3.
2/24/18	1. Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? No. the focus on military solutions to domestic and global problems is outdated and counterproductive. 2. Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Yes. Public service options for youth of eligible age need to be expanded into non-military arenas, such as global diplomacy (ala, the peace corps), education, especially in poverty plagued urban areas, environmental correction (cleanup) and remediation, care of the elderly, and administrative activities which support these efforts. 3. How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? By expanding options in non-military arenas of public problem resolution. 4. What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? Overemphasis on military participation, and opacity with respect to the military establishment. 5. Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? Public service DOES have inherent value. In many cases, however, military directed public does not, and can have deleterious effects, such as PTSD, and exposure to toxic substances, and situations. 6. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? No. It should be discretionary. The intrinsic values of public service, hope, and opportunity, are appealing enough to draw sufficient human resources. 7. How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? It doesn't. The focus on military service, and the opacity of the military establishment discourages participation, for most youth.
2/24/18	Go ahead- keep on going- enforce enrollment in the draft so we can end it again (I am a resister, aged 76). In the 70's you sent me to prison. If you do not want to be doddering merchants of death, or un Christian- keep right on. Otherwise- for true service- let's sign up for conscientious objection? Were you here during the Viet war (and every war since WW 2)? Remember- "every war has two losers". Best to doddering fools
2/24/18	corrected version: Go ahead- keep on going- enforce enrollment in the draft so we can end it again (I am a resister, aged 76). In the 70's you sent me to prison. If you want to be doddering merchants of death, or un Christian- keep right on. Otherwise- for true service- let's sign up for conscientious objection? Were you here during the Viet war (and every war since WW 2)?
2/24/18	I worked for 40 years in one Bureau in state govt, retired in 2014, & 3 months later started volunteering 1/2 day a week in that same office. Over the years, when the workload increases, staff is cut, some years there are no raises, employees are required to pay additional costs for benefits, you can't hire additional staff &/or you can, but they have to take a pay cut to come work for govt. or you can't find or hire well-qualified staff, you have staff working extra hours month after month but not getting paid for that extra time they are working, & then you have elected state reps & senators constantly criticizing civil service staff and using money they were supposed to put in pension funds instead use them for state operational costs, use smoke & mirror, one-time financial gimmicks to fund operations rather than raising taxes, it becomes very difficult to get & keep good staff. It gets discouraging to hire staff, train them & then see them! leave for other places offering better pay, benefits & greater opportunities for advancement. Unfortunately, the general public doesn't understand most of this, but they are quick to angrily blame state employees for many things that are beyond our control, creating a toxic atmosphere. There are plenty of things wrong with government, but it is rewarding to serve the public & see the great benefit of your hard work. But it's hard to overcome some of the internal problems.
2/24/18	This should not be a rule. We aren't officially at war. People should be able to choose for themselves if they want to fight for America. We should put our resources to fixing our economy- anti monopoly in finance, business and medicine (like hospitals & insurance companies), raising the minimum wage, ending the war on drugs, making Medicare for all citizens, reducing climate change by switching to wind and solar energy and thereby creating many jobs.,.

2/24/18	The Selective Service System is part of our huge, immoral war machine that is committing war crimes across the globe. Part of the system that sucks money out of the economy and wastes it on weapons of war and killing. Part of the system that destroys thousands of youth who get pulled into it. End the Selective Service System NOW! Disarm NOW!
2/24/18	It is completely inconsistent with the proclaimed description of this country in its "national anthem" as "the land of the free" that the government should be empowered to FORCE anyone to register for the military, become part of the military, or mandatorily perform any form of "military, national, or public service." If the government runs out of people it can convince to become the killers in its wars, it should stop the wars. Although it would be completely out of character, it would be wonderful if this country became a peaceful land rather than the belligerent bully it has become, maintaining and extending its vast worldwide military empire, fighting what is by definition an endless war ON terror that is in reality a war OF terror against people who have done absolutely nothing against this country other than a few instances in response to previous American military invasions, and by its actions provoking further completely understandable retaliation.
2/24/18	Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? No. Our military is the largest in the world and doesn't need to be any bigger. And no American should be forced to "serve," especially if they believe war is never the answer. Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Yes, it should be eliminated altogether. How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? How about FULL transparency with the ENTIRE military budget and ALL the reasons we have bases around the world, EVERY reason we ever go to war (though we NEVER should), EVERY reason we put ANY life in danger, etc? What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? Mistrust of the US government and military leadership. Disbelief in any "reason" we need to go to war to "protect" US interests. Utter disregard of our veterans by the government and military leadership. Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? If it was actual service for humanity and not just US interests, possibly. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? None of the above. How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? COMPLETE transparency and honesty about every mission. No more reliance on patriotic bullshit or manipulating emotions. More and more Americans, especially younger ones, value authenticity and life and peace, not some misguided notion about an American empire. We can be GREAT as a country AND value and respect all other countries, all of humanity, all of life, and the planet.
2/24/18	If a mandatory participation is required, it should be the choice of the draftee whether they want to go into the military or to some other organization (i.e. peace corps) that does good things for people in the world. no one should be forced to go out to fight and kill people for something they may not believe in.
2/24/18	End the draft--no more war--peace now...
2/24/18	we don't want war!
2/24/18	Repeal the requirement for men to register, and abolish the Selective Service System. People should not be forced to enlist to go to wars they don't support.
2/24/18	End draft registration!
2/24/18	War is murder. No person should be required to sign up to kill.

2/24/18	Military service has proven to be a seriously misguided form of patriotism. A struggle for peace and the common good will serve our nation far better than agreeing to obey illegal and immoral orders, which is what much of military service boils down to. The military should be defunded and all potential volunteers should be urged to consider alternative service to our country, such as teaching or working in peace corps-like organizations. Many will benefit from compulsory service of some kind, but not all. Everyone can be given a meaningful task, even if it is to clean a neighborhood or play checkers with an older person or make treats for prisoners or make refugees feel welcome. The task should be matched to the person's interests and skills. But do not ask them to kill other human beings for political reasons. Force should not be on the list of politician's available tools.
2/24/18	The military draft registration is counterproductive for young people to consider how to live their lives, particularly if they oppose the wars in which the US is involved. The US military already takes 60% of my tax dollars and does not need to increase participation. Imperialist wars to gain oil and other resources are not supported by many of us. Save the military for true threats that are not instigated by our actions internationally. I believe all people at the age of 18 (if physically and mentally competent) should provide service to the country by volunteering at hospitals, recreational center, programs to support their communities, rebuild areas decimated by poverty, etc. This has a value. Those who wish to serve in the (diminished size) military can choose that form of service.
2/24/18	Every person has free agency. Laws that criminalize peaceful protest are themselves criminal. Better to encourage service by serving in humility not in the arrogance of the justification of the use of force
2/24/18	People have the right to choose whether or not they will serve in the armed forces. No one should be compelled to do so over their moral objections.
2/24/18	1. End the draft. It is not needed. It is only likely to be of need if our nation instigates unmanageable counteraggression. Our diplomacy needs to be improved and our belligerence and regime-changing has to be curtailed. 3, Better diplomatic and military positioning in foreign policy can improve the US military's recruiting. Fewer people of skill and intelligence will volunteer for military service when the military is unjustifiably put into reckless, destructive, and warmongering purposes. 4. As in 3 above. 5. Service does not have "inherent value" aside from the meaning of the word itself -- and there are many ways to serve others, military training and service being only one approach. 6. No. A mandatory service requirement is not necessary, but it would likely lead to less military aggression and adventuring in our foreign policy.
2/24/18	It is high time to end draft registration. There has been virtually no use for the draft since the Vietnam War era so it makes no sense to keep it in place. The best alternative is to encourage young people to participate in public service projects (i.e. volunteering) in their own communities rather than fight wars that very few Americans want.
2/24/18	1. No, a military draft or draft contingency is NOT still a necessary component of U.S. national security. We do not need to support unnecessary military adventures abroad, such as the war in Iraq. 2. The only modification to the selective service system needed is the elimination. 3. The United States can increase participation in national, and public service, NOT the military, by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation by offering true service opportunities, such as teaching literacy, providing basic medical information, construction projects, etc. 4. The barriers to participation in national, or public service, NOT military, are mostly economic. There needs to be good compensation. 5. Non-military service has inherent value: the assistance it gives people who need it and the sense of pride and belonging it gives to the participants. 6. A mandatory, non-military service requirement for all Americans is valuable and feasible. 7. The United States can increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve by eliminating exemptions for the wealthy, offering decent compensation, and offering rewarding opportunities.
2/24/18	Freedom = non-coercion. How can anyone who claims income tax is evil because it is coercive then demand that I kill on command like a vicious dog?

2/24/18	"Service" and the acts of preparing to and then actually engaging in killing people & destroying cultures are mutually exclusive. "Compulsory" and "service" are mutually exclusive. Eliminate the draft. Young people are serving people and our world via many activities; killing others is not one of them.
2/24/18	I do not support your mission of increasing the number of Americans in the military service. I do not support a military draft or selective served registration in any form. But your mission has been set. My comments below assume that the existence of selective service registration and the possibility of a future drafting of Americans into the military. Women should be registered as well as men. The upper age limit for the draft should be 50 years. Many duties in the military do not require prime physical condition. Anyway, many younger people are in lousy physical shape. The minimum age of a draftee should be twenty-one years. The brain of an eighteen or nineteen year-old person may not be fully developed. A minimum age of twenty-five years would be even better.
2/24/18	Due to the number of young people willing to join our military there is no need for a draft. Since 9/11, there has been an increase of folks signing up. Also, with the increased acceptance of women and LGBT persons, there seems to be no need for a draft as well.
2/24/18	It's unnecessary
2/24/18	No, a military draft or draft contingency is NOT a necessary component of U.S. national security.
2/24/18	End draft registration.
2/24/18	STOP FORCING PEOPLE TO FIGHT A WAR THAT IS GENERATED BY THE RICH, THE WEALTHY, OUR GOVERNMENT, THE ELITIST FAMILIES... This war is not ours. IT MUST STOP.
2/24/18	The SSS should be converted into a program for national service with an option for military service, where young people can be used to help build our infrastructure to become teaching aids or something else which will benefit all Americans.
2/24/18	End the registration for the draft.
2/24/18	Serving in the military should be a choice not a requirement. There is no reason to reinstate the draft. I do not support American military operations that kill and maim and destroy lives. If you want to inspire people to join the military stop starting conflicts overseas and terrorizing the rest of the world.
2/24/18	End the Draft Registration, thank you.
2/24/18	It should be ones own decision as to whether or not they want to join any of our armed forces. Period. Thanks.
2/24/18	This may bruise your patriot souls but American democracy is in the hands of Industry which is our greatest threat. It is completely amoral to force free citizens to fight for the interests of others no matter thick the veil of liberation. We will not defend an oligarchy and the oligarchy must know this in order to contain their greed and self-righteousness.
2/24/18	1. Drafting people into potentially lethal circumstances is human sacrifice, plain and simple. It is an obscenity, regardless of what country does it. We are here on Earth to LIVE. There exists FAR too much time, money, resources and lives wasted in pursuing warfare. Way over due to ratchet it down. 2. End it! 3. Need to shrink this sector, gradually. 4. The "barrier" is the increased awareness that nearly all US military missions are morally indefensible. Let people run their own countries and focus on how we can improve our own. 5. Generic service, yes, has value and policy ought to be to employ huge numbers in humanitarian efforts, both in the US and beyond. Exclude most military from this category, especially the misplaced emphasis on weaponry rather than on personnel. Take excellent and prompt care of veterans. 6. Absolutely NOT, if military, but possibly civilian use, with some exceptions allowed. 7. Learn what honor in foreign policy means. Very little honor in the missions of US in recent decades.

2/24/18	We do not need a draft; pointless wars should be curtailed instead.
2/24/18	No more wars. No draft.
2/24/18	It is past time for the nation's youth to stop making it easier for corporations to exploit nations while our young people give their lives in the process. No more deaths while escorting oil trucks.
2/24/18	Basic. . . You can't FORCE someone to KILL another human . It's just wrong and that simple. From a Nam era CO.
2/24/18	A draft should have no deferments for age, sex, or gender belief....
2/24/18	In my opinion, it may be beneficial, if there was a mandatory service requirement to some extent for all basic infrastructural tasks. This is just analogous to the duty of a state of building, providing and/or ensuring the basic infrastructure of a country (like streets, electricity, water supply etc.). Such tasks would include services that require formal training and are necessary for the internal and external security (such as military service, fire and rescue service, police service etc.), as well as general assisting in jobs for basic needs of the community which anybody should normally be able to do (street cleaning, nursery, janitorial services for non-public non-profit and public organizations etc.). The services should be compulsory, but with the possibility to choose freely between different options. People should be able to choose between either (a) each of the services with formal training, (b) general assisting services, (c) assisting services that include direct responsibility for humans (like nursery). In (b) and (c) the actual sort of jobs done by an individual might (to some extent) change over time and be subject to the public needs. Also, the work might be done beside normal jobs the people have. All employers had to release their employees from duty for the times they are obliged to carry out their services. In (a) the service would be shaped like full-time job more or less in a way as the military service already is today. Nevertheless there should always be the possibility for conscientious objection to military service (before and after the application for that service). To choose one of these services would be enough for any citizen to fulfill its public service duty. To make sure that all of these services are provided with completeness independently of and beyond the peoples choices between these options only advertising and normal voluntary employment would be allowed.
2/24/18	End mandatory registration for military service. Unfair process.
2/24/18	Greetings Even the Pentagon regards the military draft as pointless. It was reinstated in response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan almost forty years ago. It had no truly practical purpose even then. The registration for the military draft is an expenditure that has no reason to exist. However, as a lifetime peace activist and a religious pacifist, I have followed the changes in law regarding conscientious objection that have been made since 1980. Much that went before in terms of the legal history of that status has changed by your agency despite several Supreme Court and other decisions. I believe this is a violation of executive process and the law. During the Viet Nam War era I worked as a draft counsellor specializing in applications for CO status (I-O and I-AO). The lack of understanding of the religious and ethical issues involved by local draft boards created many an injustice in violation especially of United States v Seeger (1965). It strikes me as a violation of the First Amendment for an agency such as yours to decide on the validity of anyone's religious or ethical beliefs. In effect that is what you do when you create standards for conscientious objector status. In my opinion, registration for the military draft should be a matter of personal choice entirely. Anyone wanting to participate should do so, announcing their availability for military service. That is their right. Anyone who refuses should not be penalized on that account. That is their right. Thank you for your attention to this message
2/24/18	No citizen of the U.S. should ever be drafted. He or she should have the choice of which military service to engage in, or not.
2/25/18	we need to have a far smaller military footprint, not draft or draft registration.

2/25/18	it's out dated
2/25/18	If people want to serve, they should be welcome. If they don't want to serve and are forced to serve, they become a liability to the military. A better idea is to do away with the draft entirely and have system that gives REAL opportunities for those who enlist to learn and improve skills that will serve them well when they return to civilian life.
2/25/18	At this point in history I believe that a compulsory draft is not needed for our country. We are not at war, neither are we being threatened, we do not need a large military. War in this time will surely involve nuclear weapons that will destroy our earth. We must give up ideas of armies and wars and begin to find peaceful ways to resolve conflicts.
2/25/18	Today, every man between the ages of 18 and 25 must register with the Selective Service. Young men who don't register are denied federal loans and are barred in most states from entering state universities. Failure to register for the nonexistent draft is a felony that can destroy careers. For what? To perpetuate an unnecessary federal agency, protect 130 jobs and shield lawmakers from appearing to be weak on national security. Times have changed. There is no shortage of recruits for America's volunteer military, despite protracted U.S. engagements in Afghanistan and Iraq. Registration and the draft are archaic remnants of a time when huge armies fought wars along delineated battle fronts. Today's military more often consists of small, specialized strike forces, air strikes and, increasingly, targeted attacks by unmanned drones. Maintaining the Selective Service system costs taxpayers \$24 million a year. That's a tiny amount in the federal budget, but still a potential savings. America's all-volunteer military has been a resounding success. Ending the Selective Service system would merely recognize that reality.
2/25/18	good afternoon, i want to talk about some of the changes that can be made with the military draft. 1 would be everyone should be able to have their own insurance and pick what doctors they want. 2. we need to put the young people into logistics and participate in national disasters instead of being in other dangerous countries meaning help our state that is facing nation disasters. 3. if their is national service certain people should be in the military, but not in danger of ducking bullets. NO excuses such as religion or false injury. everyone should serve including older fit people.
2/25/18	A draft is involuntary servitude and does not make for the best candidates for the military. Being in the military is no more service to the country than being an educator, social worker, counselor, or fireman. Militarism in this country is growing at an alarming rate. We are NOT safer than were before 9/11. We have made millions of more enemies, a number that grows every day as we kill innocent people around the world. We need to stop trying to control the world's resources and become a force for good in the world. The US is no longer the "good guys."
2/25/18	I believe the requirement to register for the military is unfair, and only serves to perpetuate ongoing wars instead of looking toward a world without wars. I do believe that service has inherent value, as in serving in the Peace Corps, not the military. I believe the military (and the world) would benefit from personnel trained in non-violent communication, conflict resolution, and exploring ways to deflate and de-escalate conflicts, rather than escalate them. Bombing people, especially innocent civilians, will only continue to make more enemies. The US. military would/could make the world truly a safer and better place if they could focus on solutions, not just killing people. A good start to this would be eliminating the requirement for kids to enlist at 18.
2/25/18	No, the military draft or draft contingency is not a necessary component of U.S. national security.
2/25/18	NO MORE FORCED "REGISTRATION" FOR THE MILITARY! FIGHT YOUR OWN WARS.....
2/25/18	As a wartime vet I want our nation to bring all our military home out of all foreign countries we have no reason or benefit from spending money to keep American military out of this country! Keeping military overseas simply make it convenient to use them because they are there !

2/25/18	A military draft is not needed. Our nation has gone down the wrong path since the Korean war. I am a disabled veteran of that war. Since then we have become an increasingly militaristic society eschewing diplomacy for a quick-fix of armed intervention to force our will on sovereign nations. We continue to waste lives and treasure because of our adventurism while at the same time earning the enmity of those we attack. This is not the America I grew up in and it grieves me. The very existence of this Commission and its focus is evidence of how skewed our priorities are.
2/25/18	End the draft!!!
2/25/18	force women to sign up, and prioritize the rich kids. Let them go die in war for a change, and maybe some shit will start changing.
2/25/18	My position is that no one should be required to register for the military or be drafted. Moreover, based on the US signing of the UN protocol on children, no one should be solicited for the military until they reach 18 years of age and they have signed an agreement that they may receive recruitment calls and materials. This means that JROTC should be eliminated, providing the military with contact information of 11th and 12th graders should be abandoned and high school students should not take the ASVAB exam. All of these efforts to engage our youth in the military should wait until they reach adulthood. Recruiters must be truthful in their recruiting and not be pressured to reach quotas. This would reduce stress and save lives. Recruiters start early. The son of a friend of mine received recruitment calls when he was five years old. These tactics need to stop.
2/26/18	Good Afternoon, First off I should say that I'm not an American citizen. Surely for a modern democracy a military draft is unlikely to be desirable, useful or practical. It seems likely that any attempted draft would result in mass protests and given the increasingly high tech nature of combat its hard to see how useful most civilians would be without a huge amount of training, not to mention the many moral objections to a draft. I would think the best way to encourage young people into public service would be to ensure that the state and its agencies more closely reflect their values. Thank you for your time. Regards,
2/26/18	We know that we can not depend on the politicians to lead us into only wars that are necessary to our nation's defense. In the last several decades our nation's politicians have led us into wars that were horribly destructive to our national interest, with the negative effects continuing for decades after, and that needlessly killed millions. Prime example: Iraq - we still do not have a valid answer as to why we started this war. And now we the people have to focus our efforts against killing by machines - drones. Drones are a win/win for the MIC. No casualties at home; casualties only abroad. Only profits at home. Less and less feedback from Americans who have lost loved ones.
2/26/18	A military draft should never be necessary for maintaining national security. If there are not enough people to carry out a war, maybe we should consider an alternate method for settling our differences with others. If the alternate method were to be peaceful negotiations, it is possible that many Americans would volunteer to serve. Service should be more in the line of development and aiding people instead of fighting them.
2/26/18	I have never agreed with the idea of a draft. People should be able to decide what wars they risk their lives in, or whether to risk their lives at all.
2/26/18	draft registration negative in my community at 18. it was definitely a barrier to getting youth interested in public service. 30 plus years later draft registration seems regressive and best ended
2/27/18	End draft registration.
2/27/18	The only way to find new ways is to end the old ones. The current draft is sexist and stupid. End it and then look for ways to replace it. Maybe try free college with two years of service, not just military.

2/28/18	Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? Are modifications to the selective service system needed? How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve?
2/28/18	END DRAFT REGISTRATION!
2/28/18	The draft has proven to be unnecessary and should be ended.
2/28/18	I don't think the draft would benefit the military so much as it would the young men and women of the country. They are missing much with their lack of discipline and self-confidence that would be strengthened by a few years of service.
2/28/18	As a concerned citizen, I strongly urge you to repeal the requirement for men to register, and abolish the Selective Service System altogether.
2/28/18	End the draft.
3/1/18	Yes, we should reinstate the draft. It is a great equalizer among citizens. Many of the Nation's elite and privileged young men will develop a lifelong bond with and empathy for men of lesser opportunities via the shared sacrifice and hardship of soldierly duties. Upon completion of service, these young men will have a sense of service well provided to the Nation and one another. They will have matured and will be better suited for college or technical training upon release from military service. The potential for future conflict with very capable opponents such as Russia and China should compel our Congress to prepare now, both technologically and with the sheer work force numbers required. Woman should be encouraged to serve in all military units short of ground combat. For those of us who have served in the past, there are enough challenges in a male only combat unit. If Congress wants to be all-inclusive and address social issues, there are countless Federal and ! State positions/careers where gender and sexual orientation progress can be made. Our DOD is on the wrong path when it comes to leveling the playing field via social issues. The DOD has only one purpose: To protect and defend our Nation and our National Interest. To do this, we need well-trained and well-led hard young men because this is exactly what they will be facing when confronting another advanced countries combat forces.
3/1/18	Eliminate gays from services. Keep women out of the Infantry. Keep retirement pay up with inflation.
3/1/18	Personally, I have long believed all physically and mentally (as determined by military doctors) able male and female citizens, age 18-25, should serve at least a 3 years in one of the 4 branches of service. I do not endorse females serving in combat positions, except in National emergencies. There is a growing up process that military service brings that is sorely needed in our country today. Many are demanding free college, therefore the GI Bill must be conducive toward this goal. COLA, and pay in general, must be kept in line with the non-military pay. There must be adequate incentive for making the military a career. Continued overhauling the retirement program, including broken retirement promises, must be eliminated. Retaining the best will cost money but our country's security is worth it.
3/1/18	I believe we should have American Universal Service. To me that means every youngster qt 18 years of age registers for the draft and then selects a two year commitment in one of the Universal Service agencies supporting the USA. If they select the military services, then they also are eligible for the GI BILL, but if they pick one of the other universal service options, then they get paid accordingly, but no GI BILL. The Universal service options could be the following 1. The 5 branches of the armed forces, 2. Peace Corps, 3.Fire department service, 4. Police department service, 5. community services,

	6.Applachian Corps 7. Building Homes for there poor, 8.public works, 9. animal rescue 10. The salvation Army, 11. The Red Cross, 12 any other church related services--other categories could also be added.
3/1/18	THE MILITARY DRAFT WAS THE ONLY VEHICLE TO COMPLETELY INTEGRATE THIS NATION. IT PROVIDED A WORK ETHIC, DISCIPLINE AND A SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT WHILE TEACHING THE PRICE OF FREEDOM, RESPECT FOR THE FLAG AND THE VALUE OF LOYALTY. THE PUBLIC SENT A BOY OR GIRL AND THE MILITARY RETURN A MAN OR WOMAN. REGARDLESS OF YOUR STATUS ALL HAD TO SERVE.
3/1/18	1. Yes 2. Yes. Male and female should be required to register. 3. Until the mindset of entitlement is changed you can't voluntarily increase participation. 4. The entitlement mindset perpetuates the "it's up to the other guy" paradigm. 5. Several. It helps to develop the maturation process in terms of teamwork and getting along with and respecting others values. Secondly it brings to the forefront that the freedom we all share should be a shared effort. 6. Of course it is unless you listen to all those who have never contributed complain about being entitled not to contribute. 7. Put God back in the school and teach American history as a roadmap to how we got to where we are today with the purpose of showing that "History is History"!
3/1/18	Question 1: Absolutely YES. Question 2: Probably, but I don't know enough about it to comment. Question 3: First of all understand that most young people of draft age mentally image military service in its most basic undesirable form...impersonal boot camp type of life. The more 'normal' and exciting life of highly skilled military personnel needs greater advertising and promotion. We need to replace the excitement young people get from video games to the rewarding and real life excitement of 'actual' military service. It's a mind game, we've got to get into their heads. Question 4: The lure of substantial private sector compensation for the highly skilled vs. military compensation is in my mind the greatest barrier. Question 5: Most young people are inherently patriotic and will consider the military if we can overcome the 'march in formation' stereotype. Service in any capacity in the military brings most participants to the realization that they, as individuals, are important parts of a national group of dedicated men and women who find value in their service. Military service is and always has been a maturation environment for young individuals, especially those who have not yet realized a goal in life. Question 6: Is a mandatory service requirement necessary? That depends on the definition of 'requirement.' Certainly registering for the draft should be mandatory for all, but actually serving in the military or other public service is neither feasible or necessary. Question 7: Young people today live in a world of exciting advanced technology and relative prosperity. We need to do better creating a public image of military service as being a competitive lifestyle that includes even more advanced technology and assured prosperity, particularly in the area of direct compensation.
3/1/18	I feel that we should re-institute the registration and draft for all, men and women, reaching the age of 16. Medical consideration for disability of some to serve would be my only barrier to service. There are places within the military for all, even conscientious objectors, to serve and to be exposed to the higher ideals of military values. While I was not thrilled when I became draft eligible and was expecting to be drafted, it was one of the most positive things to happen to me in my life. I ended up with 34 years of service and loved every minute of it. Our youth need the opportunities and challenges that military service provide. Not all will thrive in a military environment, but even the exposure of the military service core values to those who will ultimately fail is a positive thing to happen. Not all will succeed, but the opportunity should be offered to all.
3/1/18	Yes, bring back the draft for all U.S. citizens 18 years or older. Service to our country must be paramount and instilled in all Americans. Everyone can serve in some capacity. Draft into the military may be one event. But draft into other service areas for 2 years must also be considered. No one should be excluded or deferred because of school, disability or situation. Service to out great nation must be fulfilled.

3/1/18	I support a return to the pre-1974 DRAFT. The "citizen soldier" concept of requiring military service served America well from colonial times. Creating a praetorian guard because of some folks did not want to serve their nation in time of need, The DRAFT also tended to make politicians refrain from getting into foreign conflicts in which there is no legitimate American interest (other than some private interest of a bought and paid for politician). As a concept, I opposed the "all volunteer" force before it was created and ever since. I see no changes needed in the pre-1974 DRAFT law. The DRAFT also tends to increase voluntary public participation because some youngsters will "choose" to volunteer to get a preferred military occupation specialty (MOS), leaving less preferred MOS to those opting for conscription. I do not know that "mandatory service for all" Americans is a necessity for that tends to excessively increase the cost of military service to the taxpayer in times when there may be little need for it. The DRAFT calls on citizens only in time of "need." Question five (5) must have been chosen by someone who never had the pleasure of serving in the Armed Services. I was a "mustang" and I only rose to the rank of major, but I am glad I served my country. I think a return to the DRAFT will increase the "propensity" of young Americans to serve to the extent the nation needs their service.
3/1/18	Every able bodied citizen age 18 should register for the draft. "Call Up" would be executed @ the direction of Congress.
3/1/18	Currently one percent of the county shoulders responsibility for its defense. Registration for the draft should include women so decision makers can look at the entire resource pool in case of a national emergency. National service (not just military) is a way to develop leadership skills that are useful in all walks of life. The training pipeline is long for a reason so a two year draft period would not allow soldiers to be operational for any period of time. Sending troops to combat without all the training is unthinkable. Extending the term of enlistment would take a large chunk out of a young person's life and would require a decent GI Bill of Rights. Quality is more of a requisite than quantity and quality volunteers is better still.
3/1/18	Yes the draft should be restarted. If nothing else this will give young people an opportunity to learn discipline and a sense of duty. It will also give them an opportunity to learn a job skill which is lacking in many young people today. I believe a mandatory service should be a requirement for all Americans. To recruit qualified personnel we need to increase pay and benefits. We need to stress the importance of physical fitness in our schools so that young people will be able to pass the physical requirements for the military. Our leaders need to set the example of fair play, respect for each other (especially towards females) . Great leadership starts at the top this is something we as the voting public seem to have forgotten. In summary be careful what you vote for you just may get it.
3/1/18	Only 2 out of five civilians of service age can pass the ASVAB, medical, and background checks. Of those accepted, the drop out rate is also high. With proper administration the draft could improve those numbers significantly. During the earlier draft the services had time to work with soldiers who could not pass the physical requirements by sending them to special units whose mission was to help the soldiers lose weight, get physically fit and for some, remedial basic education. Deferments should be rare but in effect to weed out mental and morally defective persons. Both male and female 18 year old persons should be in the draft pool. A fixed period of active duty must be included to be cost effective. Then a period of service in a reserve component must be required. The budget for the Department of Defense would need to be increased to handle the increased processing and training demands. Unit TO&E would need to be increased and not use draftees for mowing lawns, walking the General's dog or other menial, non-soldiering tasks. Draftees should not be eligible for assignment to Special Warfare Units until after a set time of assignment with a regular force organization. The Eisenhower administration administered a mandatory 8 years of military service for men. It changed many thousands of young men and prepared them for life. Since the end of the draft, it has become very apparent that a lot of young men and women have lost direction, and patriotism and maturity. Many became an NCO at 20 years old with immense responsibility to self and others. Now they are considered children at 26. When the draft ended the following generations became lost in a world with lower values, no direction and for many, a loss of maturity and patriotism. While the previous

	<p>draft was rife with problems and seemed to focus on poor and less educated selectees, the new draft must overcome those pitfalls and focus on quality and character. Those not selected could be assigned to civilian public service roles. The military must not be straddled with misfits and lower quality soldiers. The term soldier is used generically throughout my statement and means soldiers, sailors, and Airmen. The Marine Corps and all Special Warfare Units must remain all volunteer.</p>
3/1/18	<p>Yes. I would like to see the draft reinstated. Anyone who lives or wants to live in our great nation should be willing to serve our great nation. I would like to see a list of ways that people who are drafted can serve, meaning the military or some approved service organization. Bring back the draft. It might also help reduce illegal immigration if people who enter the U.S. realize they may have to serve and contribute!</p>
3/1/18	<p>The draft is necessary to provide for the security of our nation. All citizens should be required to perform two years of service, either military or public service, at some point after high school. Too many citizens have no "skin in the game" and allow others to do the serving. The idea of "citizen" armed forces helps prevent multi-generational loyalties to the military rather than the country it is defending. Rewards for service should include an enhanced VA educational benefit to help defray the high cost of post high school education. This is a win-win solution for everyone, and will create stronger national loyalties.</p>
3/1/18	<p>When I was stationed in Spain there was mandatory conscription for all men. There seemed to be societal benefits beyond service to the military. It was a rite of passage through which kids became Spaniards -- every man did it, from peasant to the King. Universal conscription would get kids to see beyond their neighborhoods, be with people different than themselves, and learn skills.</p>
3/1/18	<p>2. Yes, women should be required to sign up for the draft. 3. Instill patriotism in children. It can't be taught in schools, it has to come from parents. 4. Unfortunately, barriers are obesity, lack of education, and lack of self-esteem. 5. It teaches a skill, pride in having a job which earns money, how to work together to get something worthwhile done.</p>
3/1/18	<p>Yes. I feel a draft is necessary to train the young to be respectful, to learn the value of freedom, to learn that one opposing voice should not take rights away from the many unless you are ready to "put skin in the game." I think women should be included in the draft, but not serve in combat unless needs outweigh the costs. We must instill values in our young: respect, consideration, value, God, team skills, leadership and the value of working toward a goal. We must reverse the current values of entitlement and self value.</p>
3/1/18	<p>EVERY American citizen being of sound mind and body should serve at least 2 years in military service of choice or one of the many American or Overseas voluntary service programs. Preferably just out of high school and if not in high school, drafted off the streets. An American citizen has a lot to give and we should share, voluntary or drafted.</p>

3/1/18	<p>I am retired US Army - joined at the end of Vietnam - could have avoided service as I had a high draft number... Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? Yes, but unlikely to be used except in case of dire emergency and, frankly, if used, it will take two years to have any impact - the standing force (including reserve and NG) needs to be capable of handling whatever happens in the "short term" (under the 2 years it will take to effectively bring draftees into the military) Are modifications to the selective service system needed? It needs to include all individuals legally in this country, including women. Not just because they are now allowed in combat arms - women are citizens and need to have the same rights and responsibilities as men. How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? There needs to be some incentive. A small percentage will join (as I did) because it is what they want to do. Most join because either they have no clue what to do with their life or because they want the education benefit. Rather than talk about "free" college education (entitlement with no requirements attached) - provide an education benefit for those that choose to serve in other than the military - maybe better for those who do choose the military. What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? Many just don't care enough... They don't see it as something that needs to happen (yeah - pretty cynical) Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? Service is first, a JOB. It teaches people who probably don't have any experience how to do things on a consistent basis, earn a pay check, and exist separate from their parents. That, in its self, is a big deal. It also forces people to realize what they can do (usually more than they thought.) Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? Probably not - to do it for everyone, it would end up being a lot of make-work and, there are people who wouldn't qualify for anything or the jobs would have to be so menial as to demean those who were required to take them. How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? Provide an incentive - alternative to large loans for college - those who choose NOT to serve can still get and pay off their loans (and they would not have an excuse to whine about it).</p>
3/1/18	<p>1. In view of the threats to our nation, a draft contingency is essential. 2. Yes, should include all citizens. 3. A mix of mandatory draft and volunteer service. 4. Time away from family, salary, risk to life, risk to health and diminishing benefits. 5. Serving others and the nation is an honorable calling that increases self and national worth. 6. I believe that a draft program to fill critical skills combined with a volunteer service element will enhance loyalty, commitment and patriotism in our nation. 7. Draft and volunteer options for service.</p>
3/1/18	<p>I believe a military draft and mandatory/required two-year service IS necessary to maintain US National Security. 18-25 year old men AND women should be required to sign up and service a two-year term; college deferment should still be available (undergraduate only). Training & serving will instill a sense of honor & loyalty to our country as well as provide valuable life skills to young men & women. It will also demonstrate that Americans are dedicated to protecting the land, people & traditions where they live . . . and make them proud to called Americans. It will additionally entitle them to be called Americans, and not freeloaders who take but don't give back.</p>

3/1/18	<p>1, We do need to maintain the selective service system in the event of national emergency. We do not need to reinstitute an active draft for any of the reasons that so often appear in the press. I came into the Army as an officer in 1978. The ghosts of Vietnam were everywhere. As we transitioned to the all volunteer Army, we began getting people that WANTED to be there. We started to turn the Army (and other services around). When President Reagan and Secretary Weinberger came in, they began providing the resources we needed. This is the military that brought down the Berlin wall and Soviet Union, as well as the one that won the first Gulf War. I am confident after a review of my 30 years of service, that we were and are better off with volunteers. These are true citizen soldiers. 2. Regarding potential modifications to SS, I would argue that all citizens, both male and female should be subject to registration. 3. Hard to do when our mass or mainstream media is so clearly left-wing and still anti-military Those in charge of these organizations are the same ones now running the universities and media outlets. 4. A principal barrier is physical fitness. This has been discussed lately. Too many of our youngsters are simply not fit. There are really no other significant barriers. A mentally and physically fit person can join the service without much difficulty. 5. The word "service" answers that question. Though I would not agree with the concept for the United States due to our constitution, traditions and system of government, the movie Starship Troopers indicated a requirement to serve in order to have all the rights and privileges of full citizenship. Those who serve in the military in an honorable fashion are always proud of their contributions and look on their service with a sense of pride. They also realize that they made a commitment and a sacrifice that 99% of their fellow "citizens" did not. 6. No, per my comments above. 7. By returning our nation to one that values patriotism, morals and values. Our entertainment industry, gaming industry, and mainstream media have done just the opposite.</p>
3/1/18	<p>Every adult citizen should be registered for the draft, Every citizen should take part in Public service.</p>
3/1/18	<p>Yes I believe the country should re-institute the draft for al sexes for a two year active service followed by reserve duty active or inactive. I am of the strong opinion this action would provide enhanced patriotism, equality, and share the load. Already the services have difficulty fulfilling their requirements with qualified applicants and continue to reduce requirements just to get enough warm bodies many woefully unfit to protect our country. Students in elementary schools have been found not to have the muscle control and dexterity to hold a pencil, the inactivity of our youth could be improved by institution of planned military service. However an additional question must be asked. What is the age of adulthood? The age to use tobacco, purchase firearms, use alcohol, vote and be included in the draft (active or inactive) must be the same. The country has been through this debate before! For good measure I would throw in granting of a full driving permit. What is the ! age of responsibility? What age is adulthood in the USA?</p>
3/1/18	<p>1. Yes, but should only be used in Nat'l Emergency or crisis for critical specialties. 2. Yes. 3. You get what you pay for, if it is truly critical, special pay is required. 4. Liberalism in schools and general misinformation given by teachers and administrators. 5. It promotes a love for country and mostly brings maturity to the individual and gives them a sense of pride. 6. Some type of service should be required of all legal citizens be it peace corps or military or some other form of service. 7. With difficulty, change the mind set of instant gratification by our younger generation and have Congressional leadership not look down on them and reward their service by recognizing the sacrifice that they go thru with deployments away from family. And, reducing the number of deployments by adding more people in the military.</p>
3/1/18	<p>Every able bodied person should serve the country whether it be in the military or some other form of public service. The same principle applies here as it does with paying taxes. If you pay taxes or serve your country, it is much more likely that you will be a better citizen and pay more attention to what is going on inthe country and how your tax dollars are being spent. If you don't serve or pay taxes, it is less likely you will take an interest. If all you do is receive and not pay or serve, you are less likely to take your citizenship seriously.</p>

3/1/18	Every United States Citizen who can pass a physical exam for deployment should be eligible for the draft. The draft should be reinstated. The current situation leans towards people who cannot find eligible jobs. Every individual citizen who is physically able should be capable of defending this country. The draft would also help the individual develop patriotism for this country and develop as an individual which is lacking in our schools. A person who services in our military for at least 2 years comes out a better person than when he/she entered the military. I have never been an advocate for women in the service but our culture has changed and now I agree that women should be allowed to volunteer for military duty but not drafted.
3/1/18	1. The draft is no longer necessary. Future wars are likely rely more heavily on advanced technology and less on numbers of military personnel. A cadre of highly trained volunteers will meet our future defense needs. 2. None 3. Offer incentives to serve in non-combat roles. 4. Inadequate compensation, lack of flexibility, decreasing public knowledge about the military 5. Service has inherent value for certain individuals. Interest in public service generally waxes and wanes in concert the public view of the government, the nation, and the world 6. Mandatory service is an admirable goal that is no longer feasible. It would be subject to the abuses experienced during the Viet Nam draft, i.e. "gaming the system" particularly by the wealthy and privileged. The current widening disparities in these categories would make mandatory service even more challenging to enforce than in previous times. 7. Military service has to be made more attractive to include the following: 1) improved compensation and recognition, 2) increased public awareness of the military role in the nation, 3) be viewed as a place to learned new skills transferrable to the public sector 4) perceived as a way to "make a positive difference" in the world 5. marketed as an opportunity for personal growth, adventure, and to experience the world and its people.
3/1/18	I strongly support the return to the draft for both men and women. The majority of our elected officials have never had the opportunity to serve our country in uniform and therefore have no idea what military service is all about. I also feel that if the sons and daughters of our elected officials were subject to service in the military they might view our country's foreign policy from a more realistic perspective. Service in our military builds character and a stronger sense of national pride - something that is lacking in so many of our young people today.
3/1/18	1. Yes 2. Yes...add women to Selective Service registration requirement 3. Make it mandatory 4. Ignorance of the mission and selfishness of the millennial population 5. Yes, it helps mature young Americans by teaching them a skill and personal responsibility 6. Yes it is necessary and valuable. Unfortunately, it may not be feasible due to mindset of millennials. As a general rule, they want everything handed to them and do not understand how necessary public service work is to developing life skills. 7. Difficult to say. My family gets it. My father served, two of my brothers and I served and my nephew is serving. Find a way to demonstrate the rewards of service outweigh the grunt work. Perhaps lessen the term of enlistment or create a new category of enlistment in at least one Military Service. Allowing young Americans to serve for only 2 years in non-technical, support roles in exchange for limited benefits might work. You also need to improve the opportunities for college ROTC. Perhaps develop a 2-year program at community colleges that feeds the student into the Enlisted force upon completion. Students could participate if there is a 4-year ROTC program in the area that they could be attached to for training.
3/1/18	I grew up on a farm in Our Nation's Heartland. I was subject to the draft, but young men, older than I returned home after serving Our country, either as a volunteer or as a draftee. I was impressed as particularly all of the told us that their military experience was the best thing that ever happened to them. They were PROUD. I enlisted in the US Navy because of these guys and stayed in the Navy for 30+ years. I am now 79 years old and I am PROUD of my service to our country. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this information.

3/1/18	I served 30 years in the United States Navy. I believe draft registration is a good measure to be sure we have the necessary manpower resources available to meet national defense requirements. Registration should be a requirement for all at a selected age. A program of options for public service for a certain length of time should be considered as meeting the requirement for military service if a draft is necessary. Absolutely military service has benefits for those who serve. Even excluding the education benefits the opportunities to be part of the national defense, to learn valuable occupational skills and develop leadership and organizational skills as well are key benefits. A mandatory service requirement, military or otherwise, can help develop our citizens into better informed and aware active citizens. Think about it. We could have service in schools and hospitals and working with communities as well as military service as options. Those who serve could get some school benefits and/or credit for their service. I come from a family in which both parents served in the Navy in WWII and 5 of their 7 siblings also served in the military. My parents were also educators and worked with Girl Scouts and otherwise contributed to our community and taught my sisters and me to do the same. I can see by my sisters' commitment to their communities how we have each been influenced by my parents' service. We need aware and committed citizens. Let's go! Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
3/1/18	Yes, all young men and women should be required to participate in military, national, or public service for one year after high school. All young men and women will then have the opportunity to feel good about working and to feel good about supporting the common cause of Americans. College students will then be better prepared to apply themselves when starting college.
3/1/18	If all Americans were req'd to perform military service, perhaps we could stop the erosion of Constitutional thought & make all realize their obligation to make the American experiment work. Too many folks believe in the Progressive agenda & that must be reversed if we are to succeed.
3/1/18	Perhaps now, more than ever it is time to establish mandatory military/public service. Reports that 70% of young men (women, too?) are not acceptable for military service. The percentage of congressional legislators who have had prior military service is believed to be the lowest in history. The budgetary process has become a debacle with no indication that there is any resolution to operate under a balanced budget and reduce the horrendous and costly debt. Mandatory military/public service would provide the structure and expectations that young people could use in planning their lives, it would likely increase the percentage of legislators with public/military service and would surely shape their decisions when expending our nation's treasures or sending forces into harms way, and it would provide an entry level workforce that would no longer have to be paid on a scale competing with the private sector.
3/1/18	1. Absolutely. 2. All should be registered, M&F. 3. Require "national" service as a voting qualifier. 4. Eliminate this "transgender" thingy! 5. No service, no vote. 6. Make it mandatory ... just like Switzerland. 7. No service, NO VOTE ... If you don't pay any taxes, NO VOTE!
3/1/18	1. Yes, the draft is still needed as a safety net in case of a worldwide war. Better safe than sorry. 2. Yes, change the current draft to require all 18-year-olds to register. If we've opened all career opportunities to all sexes, then all sexes should have that same obligation to register for the draft. 3. Stop restricting military access to school campuses, promote positives about military service and return the requirements of civics and gov't classes to school curriculums for graduation. Current graduates appear to be ignorant about their country, it's history and how we were founded, not to mentioned it's current gov't composition and how it functions. 4. For military service, the biggest barrier is the lack of fitness. Most young Americans cannot past the minimum physical fitness requirements needed to serve in the military. 5. Absolutely, military service has value. The most obvious benefit is instilling discipline in the individual. It also teaches respect for others and country. Additionally, it helps to combat the me-first attitude that seems to have consumed the younger generations. 6. I don't know if mandatory service is absolutely necessary, but registering for the draft should be in case it's needed. And as stated in my response to the previous question, the benefits are definitely valuable. 7. Similar to question 3, promote the positives

	about military service such as health care, education opportunities, retirement (and stop screwing around with this one...uncertainty is a deterrent), not to mention pride in country that is only strengthened when one serves and travels overseas and gets the opportunity to see and compare other countries to the United States. It doesn't take long to realize how good they actually have it at home.
3/1/18	This answer is keyed to questions 5 and 6. Aside from the obvious need to have people identified for service in the event of another global conflict like WWII, there are social benefits to the draft. The draft created a situation where Americans from all backgrounds and walks of life were placed together in stressful situations (like basic training) where they learned to appreciate each other. As it stands now without the draft, certain groups of people have no idea how other groups of Americans live or think because they have no association with them at any time in their lives. This has created the "2 Americas" that we see played out today in Washington. While bringing back the draft will not completely solve this problem, those of us who were alive when the draft was in place remember full well our experiences with other "different" Americans during our basic training. These memories are almost always positive. The country misses that mixing.
3/1/18	#1 - I think the military draft does two things: primarily it gives young men and women and opportunity to serve the country in a meaningful way; there could two options 1] serve on active duty for two years with a minimum obligation as a reserve afterwards; 2] serve in the Peace Corp or similar organization and assist those throughout the world. #6 -Using the above example, serving matures young men and women; gives them a sense of our country's purpose and mission; I am in favor of mandatory service as described in #1.
3/1/18	Reinstitute the mandatory 2 year Draft policy requiring all males especially immigrants to serve in the armed forces or some type of community service. This would do a lot to re-instill pride, appreciation and respect for those who serve, the flag and the USA.
3/1/18	I would definitely vote for the reinstatement of the draft to teach a young generation what service to one's country means; and to get parents involved and participating in the political process that send young men and women into harms way.
3/1/18	Every American citizen should be required to provide a short period of their lives to our country. Be it military, public service or some other activity that DIRECTLY benefits our country. Such activity would instill "Pride in Country" as well as self worth. Not to mention the benefits such service would provide to all citizens. Such service must be required of ALL citizens unless such citizen is grossly mentally or physically unable to provide any meaningful service. In addition to self worth enhancement, such service would tend to break up gang affiliation and multi-generation welfare dependence. Those without skills should be enrolled in a short training session (Military Basis Training or rudimentary job training) to allow them to provide the required service. A two year period would probably be most beneficial or perhaps a longer period if such service provide more extensive job skill training.
3/1/18	The "Draft" forced a "selflessness"/a spirit of cooperation to survive training, everyday life, war etc. Youth today have an "uncooperative me first attitude" and hang the rest of you. The youth contribute nothing to their protection and are reliant on someone else to sacrifice and die for their "me first" individualism.

3/1/18	In regard to item 5, the draft, properly managed, brought together young people from all parts of the country and ways of life. Not only molding them into a team but enabling them to share different points of view. Doing away with the draft was an enabling factor to today's left versus right, liberal versus conservatives who talk over each other rather than trying to understand differing points of view. Yes we have a strong AVF today, but the demographic statistics show, it no longer represents a true cross-section of America.
3/1/18	Women should be required to register for the draft. If called to military service they could then be evaluated during training as to their fitness to serve and in what capacity. They could then be disqualified or asked to serve in an administrative and non-combat position.
3/1/18	The draft is necessary. Include women as long as all military occupations are open to women. Men should not have to bear the burden of most of the "bad" assignments. Universal service would strengthen the diversity bonds with all Americans.
3/1/18	Although I strongly support an all volunteer force, I believe that women as well as men should participate in the selective service system. If the need should arise for a surge in military strength, we should have a pool of registered participants to draw upon. I have traveled in Israel, and although I know their defense needs differ from ours, they require women to serve in the defense forces. As a career military person, I realize the value the military can provide to an individual. And I believe that mandatory service to our country, whether military or otherwise, strengthens our country and the individuals serving.
3/1/18	My personal opinion is that there should be a draft program. The volunteer concept is working well to a great extent, but it is based more on financial reward in addition to the benefits of the GI Bill supporting education. Theoretically, proper spirit of patriotism will develop with the volunteer recruit, but high school ROTC units are probably doing more to develop military understanding than the lure of money for enlisting. Frankly, there are many people in the US of military age who are so undisciplined that they need the opportunity to belong to a military unit not only for unit training but for better understanding of just what makes this country great in their participation with the military, and come to appreciate the idea of organizational units for mission accomplishment, whatever it is. We can accept that not everyone is interested in the military for a twenty year plus career, but even after four years service, their developed understanding of American governmental interests in the public will have a greater foundation for Constitutional support than just from what may have been learned in class at high school, and even college. Years ago, college ROTC was mandatory for two years training. It may have resulted in better recruitment for the officer corps, but even if it did not do so directly, those having participated in ROTC gained a better insight to organizational aspects for civilian life as well, including political achievement, election to office. Currently, the use of the National Guard is being overworked, and the Reserve forces as well. Their lives are being disrupted by persistent duty requirements, for which they are mostly doing a very fine job, but relief is needed, which the draft would provide, at least for the Army, and for some aspects for the other military services. For those who are unwilling to participate in military service, there are alternative missions in service to public welfare, but everyone should be able to serve except for the lame and unintelligent, or mentally challenged. Our high schools can not be left to develop good citizens without some assistance that could come from the military as an alternative to understanding the American way of life.
3/1/18	IMHO it should be mandatory for ALL 18 year olds, all genders, to be registered for national service. This includes all types of Federal service to be performed for a minimum of 2 years either before or after college with only severe medical or mental exemptions. There should be a place for ALL to serve as an obligation to our Nation as American citizens. The Federal government has enough variety of job positions to be inclusive, both military and civilian wise.

3/1/18	I believe some form of national service should be required of all Americans; two years between the ages of 18-24. Today our congress is paralyzed with self interest and partisan politics. The loss of the draft in 1973 (for valid reasons) meant that the mechanism to bring young Americans from all walks of life, all social and economic backgrounds, urban and rural, red and blue together for a common purpose and for the greater good was lost. Our democracy only works if our elected representatives can use compromise to enact legislation that benefits the nation. When the greatest generation came together to win WWII, people like John F Kennedy and George Bush served side-by-side and when they left the military to go into business or government they retained a mutual respect that allowed for this compromise. Today only a small fraction of Americans serve in the military and only a small fraction of congress has ever served so they are paralyzed with partisan politics and we are going nowhere when we need to be able to tackle big problems like gun safety, health care and the growing threats from various types of cyber warfare. Our democracy is threatened by this paralysis and people are losing confidence in our government . This is just one small but important thing we need to do to save our country.
3/1/18	#1-Yes, you never know when something drastic will erupt. #2-Probably, such as adding women to the mix. #3-Provide for induction at an attractive rank commensurate with their experience/education/knowledge #4-Public opinion of the dangers of military service. #5-Absolutely. Being one who benefitted I can attest to that. #6-I would like to see it so and I believe it would be very valuable. #7-Eliminate the up or out mandate. Make the military more career oriented and allow for a full 30 year service plan but still make it merit based for advancement and tenured.
3/1/18	In my opinion after years of observation, I think eliminating the draft was a major mistake in the history of our Country. All able Americans should serve a minimum of 2 years on active duty in the service of their Country. One of the main problems today is very few civilian leaders in our federal government have any military experience, nor do their children serve. The lack of that experience shows in their decision making, and having no kin in service deprives them the feedback about the impact they need about the decisions they do make.
3/1/18	#1. yes. #2. No, it worked well in the past.#3. Get them off of their computers and cell phones and have them recognize a greater goal than their own individual satisfaction. #4. Computers, cell phones and selfishness on the part of individuals. #5. Yes, it teaches one the meaning of "the greater good". #6. It is both valuable and feasible for all Americans to serve. Given the correct leadership, we can and should re-introduce young Americans to what made this country great and the sacrifices that were made. #7. See answer to #6.
3/1/18	For items 3 and 7: For high tech or STEM skills, significant student loan forgiveness; for "blue collar" skills (eg, maintenance, electrical) either sponsor a high school-to-voctech-to enlistment program, or set up strong working relationships with skilled labor unions, guaranteeing membership after specific requirements set my military/ union coalition . For item 6, given the large size of the demographic cohorts versus the relatively extremely small Service manpower requirements it would be almost impossible to overcome the "who serves if not all serve" issue. Only avenue to success would be a national program linking military and other societal requirements. For item 7. Really need to significantly ramp up recruiting advertising and public service announcements to show military as more than killing machine, highlighting benefits under the old MATTRESS system. Seems leadership still doesn't get it, by continuing to draw down recruiter and advertising when recruiters are meeting their goals, thus guaranteeing failure when recruiting stars to become more difficult.
3/1/18	I believe that all citizens should be expected to perform some type of national service immediately after high school. It is good for our country for all persons to give time to serve the greater good. We have created an expectation that only a few persons are responsible to carry any load for the freedoms we enjoy. All of us need to have some "skin in the game!" It is not an imposition to give time to national service. No one is so important that they cannot delay their future plans to spend the time in service. I also believe that everyone, females included, should be involved. Yes, bring back the draft, including universal registration.

3/1/18	None of the questions can be addressed given the attitude of the CIC towards military service and those who have served and referring to those of us who have served and sacrificed in Vietnam as "losers". Young Americans look at our leaders and the example set by them to determine if supporting the leaders is worthy of that support. It starts at the top! Until we have a responsible acting CIC, the answers to the questions are given with caveats in the mind of the respondents such as myself. I support all americans who want to serve and the volunteer approach. There is inherent pride in volunteering and serving to defend our nation. The concept of a draft is an anachronism based on tens of millions serving to build our military and defend the nation.
3/1/18	1. Not necessarily a 'military draft' but a registration of ALL (only exceptions to be those who are intellectually or physically so impaired they cannot register) citizens (male and female) upon reaching the age of 18. 2. Yes. Upon registration all registrants to be determined for potential to serve militarily or in service to local/state/national agencies for public service. 3. Make National service compulsory for ALL capable citizens for a minimum of (two years military or 1 year civic) to be completed before the age of 25. 4. Other than mental/emotional or physical shortcomings/disabilities there should be NO BARRIERS. 5. Absolutely-it will instill a sense of gratitude for the great liberties, freedoms and safety we all, as Americans, enjoy. Seemingly we get these great gifts merely as a birthright, however, these gifts have been granted AND guaranteed by the blood, sweat and tears of our fore-bearers. Gratitude for these essential liberties instills a sense of National pride.It Gratitude and especially service also instills a true sense of equality among all our citizens. 6. This I addressed in response #5 above. While this will be strongly resisted by most youngsters and some parents the rewards will be immense and I truly believe will guarantee the longtime wellness of Our Great Nation. 7. This starts with parents being involved with the earlychildhood of their children and continues in school--starting with Kindergarten teaches up through High school teachers and school administrators at all levels. College/University is a horse of a different color. Significant instructors and professors or in their positions because of the old adage. Those who can-do. Those who can't-teach. This will be a long, slow process sometimes called a generational change. But it will never change and, in fact, we will continue to socially degrade into a status of 'could have been' if we don't start today!
3/1/18	The security of our country is more important now than ever before, YES the draft should reintroduced. All Americans should serve their country, male and female. At this time only the few give their time and/or their lives. Time in service to their country can and would increase their love of country and an appreciation for the sacrifices the few and their families give daily. Standards and requirements should not be lowered to accommodate the failing of our education system.
3/1/18	I have always been a strong believer in mandatory national service. I believe young people who become involved in their community, state and nation develop greater values that benefit the nation as a whole. The primary values they would gain, would be a sense of belonging, participation and responsibility to something larger than themselves. Engaged citizens create a strong community. Military service could be one option, but not the only option. I favor any national service program and would only exclude the Peace Corps. There should be no exceptions to mandatory service other than medical disability. The service would also result in educational benefits they could use after they complete their service. Thanks for listening.
3/1/18	I believe that we should go back to mandatory two year commitment in the military the Ike started when he was president. This ensures that all citizens participate in the defense of our country, plus it teaches people respect for their country and a better understanding for those that gave their life so the USA continues to exist.

3/1/18	<p>1. An active draft should not be enacted right now, there is no stimulus to need that level of severity for obligated service. A draft contingency should still be in place though to support the defense of the nation. 2. Yes selective service should be modified to reflect the significant changes in the services, which now permit service of homosexuals and women. The selective service should be expanded to include everyone in this country, including the immigrant populations. 3. The government has to be willing to fund the services at rates effective in attracting individuals to the service. Advertisement the aspects of career building is only a bandaid solution, because we need long term career oriented individuals that aren't politicians, so there has to be opportunity for advancement and incentives to keep good people around for the long term. 4. The worst barriers are the lack of promotion opportunity, the pay and benefits aren't competitive with industry, there is a lack of public understanding of the civil and military work force what it does and what it's capabilities are, which means that there is a stigma that the hours are long and difficult and the jobs are thankless. 5. It has merit in experience building, the jobs are usually incredibly rewarding and the camaraderie is like nothing you will find in the private industry. The people that take these jobs are mentored to be effective leaders, self starters, and targets to private industry recruiting, especially when the job entails a security clearance. 6. Mandatory service would not be a benefit to the services because of the nature of the term mandatory. People believed they are force into service would not bring the attitude to be successful, and would make management of the force far more difficult with the shrinking size of the volunteer force which has gone underfunded for far too long. Forcing this service would hurt the overall readiness and responsiveness of the programs you would hope to fix. 7. I would recommend that you tie the funding for public education to a service obligation for students. This would fix a couple of things. The federal student aid program is a travesty, as children that start college out of high school are not ever considered independent until either the graduate or have a service period. This would permit them to be independent and manage their education expenses more reasonably. A term of service would improve their maturity towards education and likely improve the chances of obtaining a degree, and would certainly give them the opportunity to save more towards education, and get out of college with much less debt, while also if funding remained level for grants and loans at the federal level, it could likely improve their chances of receiving federal funding. You could also consider a public service extent creating a pay deduction like social security to fund their education or permit them to contribute more to a 529 fund.</p>
3/1/18	<p>As a woman and former military member I believe that women should also be registered for the draft should our country need to enlist more members. At the screening point for actual induction women who are mothers would be assessed then whether it would be appropriate for them to enter service or not. While the volunteer service has been effective, I have heard that there is increasing difficulty finding qualified members. Also so few people have skin in the game that they do not understand the pressures of the military member and the military family. By reinstating the draft we would get a broader cross section of the population.</p>
3/1/18	<p>I spent 30 years on active duty in the Air Force, both in the draft and all volunteer force time frames. While we lost some of the complaining with the all volunteer force and got better benefits I think the country misses out on having a broader spectrum of society in the military. You can see that in the lack of military experience in Congress and government as well as other sectors of society. We should reinstate the draft in my opinion.</p>

3/1/18	<p>1. Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? Yes is the short answer, and the rationale follows: While there are a host of reasons for reinstating the policy of universal national service (Notice I did not write "draft"), I'll offer two to explain why a national enrollment system should be reconsidered: A. On a philosophical note, the theory of universal national service would be beneficial to and in keeping with our representative philosophy of government. Although I was part of and believe in the goodness of the volunteer military service, the concept of separate military belies the notion that every citizen participate in the government's workings. A separate military paid for services is too closely akin to Mercenary forces. Don't get this wrong; I do not advocate a democratized military. Military organizations require, if not demand Fayol's principle of leadership from top down; "one boss". The "one boss" in my scheme is the head of our government, the Commander-in-Chief, a civilian according to our constitution. But, in my notion all citizens should participate in national service as they do in other facets of the nation's composition. B. It then extends that as an alternate to the military option in conscription, a registration and enrollment in required universal national service would allow all citizens to participate in the mechanisms of our government. How then can the two systems work? Only through modification of the existing system or better said, modification of the "draft" system that was dismantled by Presidents Johnson and Nixon because of an unpopular military action of the time. Which takes us to your point three. I advocate the national registration of all 18 year olds, male and female. Both, because we, as a nation, have determined (rightfully or wrongfully) that male and female are equal in the military armed services. By extension, they are then both equally required to be registered for national service. Continuing with this process would be the selection and enrolment in a national service organization based on skill, intellectual capacity, personal desires, and national needs. The national service organizations go beyond the armed forces exclusively; other national services would qualify for the personnel resources "drafted". In my mind, there are none. Citizens of the United States should be instilled with duty and honor to serve in their formative years. We have wandered away from these concepts and privileges. The value? Discipline for the youth of the country, pre training for skills yet to be developed but not yet understood by the young, acquisition of leadership talent, direction for the balance of life, and most importantly service to the nation's needs. Is it necessary, valuable, and feasible? Yes. Yes. And Yes! Propensity to serve increases relative to making it a requirement to qualify to vote in local, regional, and national elections.</p>
3/1/18	<p>Having reviewed the commissioners the apparent visual lack of diversity is a MAJOR distraction. No color and no 'common folks! I just submitted responses to the above questions and should have included this comment, as well. I am 69 y/o white guy who, through hard work climbed up through the enlisted ranks of the USN and retired as a Commander w/o a college education resulting in being a world traveler and very culturally exposed/experienced. I served the students at Illinois State University for almost 20 years in a staff position constantly interacting with students and other staff on a daily basis. During that time I also served on the Board of Trustees of Heartland Community College. I am a SERVER. I would like to be involved on or with your Commission.</p>
3/1/18	<p>1. Yes, all citizens need some "skin in the game" or they become complacent. 2. I would ask those whom are more knowledge about it's inner workings than me. 3. Recognizing that public service is a price/right of passage as a citizen. 4. Civics classes being not taught in schools. 5. When only 1% of our population serves, we lose the basic tenets of a democracy. 6. When congress and the President commit out country to interventions it is essential they have a perspective on the consequences. 7. The social stigma of not serving should be as great as it was during World War II. Thank you for listening.</p>
3/1/18	<p>The draft is definitely needed in our country. It is the only way that we can remain strong and keep our young people involved with the well-being of our country. The youth of today have no idea of what it takes to maintain the freedoms that they enjoy each and every day.</p>

3/1/18	I believe that the draft should be reinstated. Too few of our citizens have ever served in the military and have no understanding of what military service entails. I also believe that anyone who runs for Federal political office should have served at least three years in a branch of our military. The training and discipline will be greatly beneficial to our society.
3/1/18	Military service has inherent value. Those who have served know they have contributed to the freedoms we enjoy. People do things for one of two reasons: they want too, or someone tells them too. A military draft or draft contingency is a necessary component of U.S. national security.
3/1/18	1. Yes! 2. Yes, women should be required to register. 3. Two methods - a) require everyone to perform 2 years of service (military, national, public) upon reaching age 18. Military service may require a longer commitment due to training requirements; b) It needs to be a grass roots effort, starting at early ages for kids. Parents, teachers and other mentors need to extol the virtue of service to our country, so it doesn't feel like a foreign concept when they get older. 4. 70% of young people are not even eligible to join our military (no HS diploma/GED, mental health issues, criminal convictions). That needs to change. The biggest barrier for national & public service is this "me" generation wants to be paid a lot of money right out of college, and wants everything handed to them. They don't have the value of service embedded in themselves. 5. To work for a common good, whether that's protecting our country or helping a third world country overcome its obstacles to a better life. 6. Yes, as stated in #3 above. Another option instead of mandatory service could be to encourage service by giving a bonus once that service is completed that could be used for college tuition. 7. See #3b.
3/1/18	MOAA RECENTLY STATED THAT 71% OF AMERICANS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 17 & 35 WOULD NOT QUALIFY FOR THE SERVICE FOR VARIOUS REASONS. TODAY, MANY YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN HAVE NO DISIPLINE IN THE HOME. ADDING A DRAFT WOULD PROVIDE A LARGER SAMPLING OF BODIES PLUS PROVIDING A RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY AND DISIPLINE. I HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH WOMEN IN THE SERVICE, BUT NOT IN COMBAT ROLES. WHY? INHERITLY, MEN ARE PROTECTIVE OF WOMEN; THEREFORE, IN A COMBAT SITUATION, A MAN'S ATTENTION MAYBE CENTERED MORE ON PROTECTING HER THAN FIGHTING THE ENEMY. TODAY WE BATTLE AGAINST MUSLIMS WHO, GENERALLY, HAVE A RESPECT FOR WOMEN. A CAPTURED WOMEN IN COMBAT COULD BE VIOLATED BEYOND WHAT I DARE PRINT HERE.
3/1/18	In my experience as a retired senior military officer, the value of service is great to the one who is serving or has served in the military, but not as a great to the surrounding community or nation as a whole. Americans, as a whole, do not know nor do they appreciate the threats and challenges that face this nation on a daily basis that are actively or passively opposed by the Armed Services and other Departments and Agencies of the Executive Branch. The prevailing attitudes of many are that veterans, particularly retirees, are a burden to society, and if TV commercials are any indicator, missing a limb. To rectify this, I believe the US has to go back to the beginning - an all male, heterosexual military with few exceptions. A major barrier to military service at this point is the high degree of sexualization of the individual service members. Having those sexually attracted to each other serving along side one another in stressful to lethal environments ensures that ! those who wish to remain sexually pure for his or her spouse are considering other alternatives to military service. Military service is not an office job. Military service is not a construction or factory job. Military service is not a service industry job. Military service is none of those. It is dangerous, difficult, stressful for families, and leaves its mark on all who venture therein. But for those of us who have served, it is a mark of honor. The republic and nation were safe during my years because I served, whether or not any other person but God knows it.

3/1/18	<p>1. still need the draft- right now we are taking the cream of the crop of our young men and women and leaving the less educated and capable people out of the mix. The military has long been an equalizer in getting a mix of the elite and the less fortunate on the same level playing field. Additionally, the military has often been able to instill a sense of pride in their troops and that carries over in to their rest of their lives. 2. Yes, close the loopholes created to avoid the draft that were created during Vietnam after WWII. There are many jobs that even the mildly handicapped can do if employed intelligently. 3. Recognize which skills are valuable and reward them for their superior skills if they are necessary. Make training relevant. Stop giving away jobs the military can do and giving them to the civilian sector. 4. Lack of knowledge of the importance of the military, how military service raises the overall consciousness of all levels of society when all levels participate equally. 5. Many young men & women have had their lives turned around for the better because the military gave them a structured, and relatively safe environment to mature in, educate themselves, and understand the vicissitudes of life. 6. In a word yes. Not necessarily easy, but doable. 7. Show the military as necessary, that it provides a path to self empowerment. Show the good things the military does. Try to change the negative public image of the military. Select better leaders based on their demonstrated capabilities provide meaningful training in leadership at all levels both enlisted and commissioned, and not so much on getting their tickets punched.</p>
3/1/18	<p>I have watched the feminist movement over the last 50+ years whose goal has been to make women “equal” to men in all areas. They have demanded that all specialties be open to them, including combat arms. As a former Infantryman who spent a year in Vietnam, I can not see women living and fighting in the environment we had to endure. This is to say nothing of the potential problems. Unless our culture radically changes i.e., childhood development, education, relationships, medical issues, anatomy, there will be no solution. As for the draft, young men are required to register, it seems only fair that the feminists demand that young women register also. This is working in Israel. Everyone, with certain religious exemptions, are required to serve, including those with some physical disadvantages. The old draft was a “right of passage” for all young men, no matter your race, ethnicity, economic background or education. No matter who you met you had a common experience of! Boot Camp and the military lifestyle. It wasn’t for everyone and it lasted for a short time in a lifetime. But all young men had that common bond. Regrettably that is no longer the case. We now have a volunteer force that is made up of those from the lower socioeconomic class and disproportionately from the South. With few exceptions, people from the middle and upper socioeconomic class do not choose to serve. They don’t have to and they see the military as only for “losers” or as John Kerry so infamously said “If you don’t study hard you’ll end up in the military.” Congress has very few members with a military background and fewer still who have actually endured combat. If there were more then I doubt we would be involved in so many conflicts around the world. But that is what we currently have. So, what’s good for the goose is good for the gander. Register the young women - and make sure that the daughters of the feminists are all drafted and all sent to the most dangerous combat arms.</p>
3/1/18	<p>Every one should register to serve our country. Service has many forms, not all military. There is the Peace Cor., Public Health, repair and rebuild our country, support the elderly and handicapped, etc. Service helps build character, helps to give direction to our young people, they don't all have to carry guns. Service could be national or state supported. Many of our young people just out of school don't know what they want to do. Many do not want to go to college and they struggle for a sense of direction that service to our country could provide much as it use to in an earlier time.</p>
3/1/18	<p>Every citizen, after 18 years of age, should be required to serve the country for a minimal (1 - 2 years) time; with multiple service options such as: Peace Corps, National Guard, Coast Guard, Civilian Infrastructure Improvement Organization, or any branch of the military. Until domestic issues are no longer so controversial; and until rich politicians stop waging foreign wars for their own economic benefit; I don't see why anyone would volunteer. I certainly wouldn't!</p>

3/1/18	<p>1. The draft is still an important component of the nation's security, as world events can change dramatically in a short period of time, and we should be prepared to act on short notice. 2. The SSS should indeed be modified to include registering every person in the USA, male and female, including every legal and illegal immigrant, unless mentally incompetent. 3. Increased participation can occur by requiring every individual to complete some form of public service in order to receive a high school diploma. 4. Cost is the major barrier to participation; however, participation could be limited to perhaps six months to reduce cost. But, no competent individual should receive social security benefits without completing public service. The six month requirement should be without pay, but compensated by six months of college. A longer term "enlistment" could be accepted after successful completion of the initial service, which could be further compensated. 5. Public service is valuable because the whole is stronger than its parts. In other words, there is strength/worth in contributing to a higher purpose; learning to cooperate with others to accomplish a project that can benefit the country. Health and taking care of oneself, standards of conduct and discipline can be learned and enforced which could benefit the nation. 6. Mandatory service is feasible and valuable (see #5), but doesn't need to be military to be worthwhile to benefit the nation; the CCC program of the 1930s is a fine example of alternate service. This service should be accomplished as part of a high school curriculum while youngsters are still young enough to participate without becoming a discipline problem, and before it becomes too costly. This step should occur in the final year of high school, and would help in the maturity of the student, and help prepare them for college or vocational school. 7. The propensity to serve is often accomplished by the accomplishments/involvement of parents. The further you get away from public service, the more likely a kid will take for granted his country and obligation to help his community. He will think he doesn't "owe" anything to anybody, and become selfish and self-centered.</p>
3/1/18	<p>Every able man and woman should be drafted in the armed forces to experience the Love of country and give these persons the mature training they need coming out of high school. Many are not certain what field they need to chose at the age of 18 and need the maturity of military service for two years. It works for Israel and other countries why not here. Men and woman need to contribute to the United States some way and experience what made this country the way it is; respect our values and Constitution.</p>
3/1/18	<p>I believe the draft could help in a lot of ways. First it takes young people and helps them grow up at a time in their lives when it is important for them to learn to take care of themselves - be responsible and accountable for their own actions/conduct . Provides them discipline and the opportunity to interact with others in a "team work" environment. Teaches them respect for others, develops self confidence and a feeling of belonging (esprit de corps). Alleviates unemployment and gives them something to do at a time their lives when a lot of them are undecided as to what path they want to follow-gives them time to mature. Teaches them skills that they can use later in the workplace and to contribute to society. Provides on call "back up" for our Narional Defense and military readiness in times of need - better preparedness for contingencies. I believe mandatory service for all Americans, even if not necessary, would be valuable and feasible and would help solve some of our Societal problems.</p>
3/1/18	<p>1. Yes. 2. Yes, include women. 3. Make it mandatory as in other countries. 4. None other than selfishness and self-centeredness on the part of too many people. 5. It is better to give than to receive. Don't be just a "taker." Contribute to the welfare of your country. 6. See #3 above. It's "feasible" if enshrined in law; no excuses, no "deferments." 7. Continue to provide tuition relief for those who volunteer to serve in underserved areas. Provide a meaningful income tax incentive to those who serve and penalize those who are capable but refuse to serve.</p>
3/1/18	<p>NO DRAFT or mandatory requirements or female requirement to reg. increase benefits and higher pay scale no inherent value if it is not voluntary if service has a mission that is serving the people NOT corporate interest or military industrial complex</p>

3/1/18	1. Under our current operational tempo and its results, reinstating the draft would only lead to demonstrations such as seen during the Vietnam era. 2. Yes, if women are to be included. 3. Encourage a public attitude of individual self reliance, pride in oneself, and looking beyond oneself to actively support our country. 6. No. Too many of our people are soft, unable to cope with negatives., or look beyond themselves.
3/1/18	On 2/2/67, I was drafted. I served in 11D Graves Registration in Viet Nam 67-68. Forty five years ago the draft was ended. I am afraid that in the Mamby Pamby Land we live in today you will never see a return to patriotic service by reinstating a military draft. Riots! Chaos! I best relax and let my blood pressure drop.
3/1/18	Every man or woman between the ages of 18-25 should be drafted for military service with 8 weeks of basic infantry training and 8 weeks of specialized training based on aptitude. It would be especially helpful to our current social structure in our country, if our youth could learn discipline, responsibility, and physical fitness. There should be no exceptions if they can pass the physical. In case of global emergencies they could be called back to active duty, to supplement our all voluntary forces.
3/1/18	A military draft and public service contingencies remain necessary components of US national security both for the unseen, dire, large-scale national emergencies that may arise in the world today, and as means of the US polity to inform its citizenry of their inherent obligations (deeply rooted in American and western civilizations) to contribute to the security and betterment of their fellow sovereigns (i.e., the People) of the United States. In the latter regard, the need and reasons behind selective service should be immensely amplified via citizenship instruction. Such instruction would include for resident and non-resident aliens of draft age their obligations to register. Modification of the selective service system should fairly require females to register. Their exclusion is virtually the last vestige of female coverture in US law. Draft exclusions for religion, objector status, and pregnancy would apply. One way to increase national and public service would be ! to streamline citizenship to aliens via quick nationalization on their completions of basic training and short term (6 mos.) honorable service. The largest barrier to participation in the military, national, and public service is a lack of normative and objective education designed to perpetuate the tenets of the US experience as a nation, plus wellness training that should begin just after infancy. Service's inherent value is the price of humanity. We are self-realizing social animals whose whole point of existence is the spiritual and physical betterment of our kind. Otherwise, existence would seem pointless. Mandatory service requirements go against the grain of American freedom; they should be reserved for periods of utmost danger and not implemented lightly. However, history proves that such periods do arise from time to time, and in our era when change occurs at a rate almost beyond one's comprehension, the potential dangers that may come to fruition ! remain manifold and perhaps more likely than in the past. Thus, we should engender all possible and diverse means to meet such contingencies. Military registration and active national service instruments are among these. The US in my view would increase the propensity for young Americans to serve by living up to its long-stated ideals; re-invigorating the precepts that value citizenship, including the notion that the people are sovereign and thus each of us owes personal responsibility manifested in local, state and national service; and by consciously and deliberately cultivating its young across the board that they are vital to the success of the American Experiment. To do the latter will take express missions, resources, leadership and focus, perhaps of the nature of JFK's re-invigoration of patriotism on a global level through national security commitment and the Peace Corps, etc. A military draft contingency is part of this, but the expectations of ideal citizenship in the USA are so much broader. Thank-you

3/1/18	1. Draft remains necessary to assure National defense is prepared for the future. 2. Women have demanded equality so this should require them to sign up for the draft. 3. Most Americans today know little about the armed forces and aren't interested in finding out. The best solution is to require military service or alternative for all . 4. Lack of interest or concern about the future freedom of the National. It is said that most parents today would not encourage their children to serve. Let someone else protect our freedom. 5. The training in the military is second to none in teaching leadership and skills. 6. Mandatory service is absolutely necessary. If we had done is years ago we would not be facing the challenges of day. 7. Tough question. It's going to be difficult to change today's mindset about the military. I hate to say it but probably the ultimate solution would be to face the same challenges as the beginning of WWII.
3/1/18	Q.#1 - A military draft or contingency is necessary. Q2.- Modifications of the selective service system are needed to include women in non combat roles. Q3.- Critical service needs could be addressed thru financial educational assistance with service obligation requirements .Q .4-Barriers to service should include physical, mental, felonious convictions,,serious drug and alcohol problems, anti-social behaviour. Q 5. Service builds pride in country, maturity, appreciation & respect for others.Q 6- Mandatory service requirement for all valuable. Q 7- Young Americans should be encouraged to serve in some capacity thru media, in schools and thru associations with Veterans organizations .
3/1/18	Yes, start drafting again.
3/1/18	If we are a country believing in totally equal rights for our citizens and the selective service (as currently written) is still in force, then women should also be registered.
3/1/18	I think the draft should be reactivated because fewer members of congress have had any military service, and that affects their outlook and decisions that they make. Often times the military is the only job people can get, so the military draws more from poorer people than the wealthier. The military offers a good learning experience.
3/1/18	Women are life givers and nurturers. On average they are significantly weaker than men. It's simply the way God (Mother Nature, if you prefer) made us. They should never ever be put into frontline combat. Our Country will go through an anx like we have not seen since the Civil War when we start bringing women back in body bags due to losses in close combat. As Lt. Gen Gregory S. Newbold, USMC (Ret.) alluded to in his incisive article "Seven Myths About 'Women in Combat'" Mar 14, 2013, please remember, the enemy gets a vote! S/F C.O. Hoelle Jr. Col USMC (Ret). Seven Myths About "Women in Combat" By G.S. Newbold, Lieutenant General, USMC (Ret.) Mar 14, 2013 Myth #1 – "It's about women in combat." No, it's not. Women are already in combat, and are serving well and professionally. The issue should be more clearly entitled, "Women in the infantry." And this is a decidedly different proposition. Myth #2 – "Combat has changed" (often accompanied by "There are no front lines anymore"). This convenient misconception requires several counters. First, any serious study of military history will reveal numerous historical examples about how successive generations (over millennia) believed that warfare had changed forever, only to find that technology may change platforms, but not its harsh essence. To hope that conflicts over the last 20 years are models of a new, antiseptic form of warfare is delusional. The second point is that the enemy gets a vote – time, place, and style. For example, war on the Korean Peninsula would be a brutal, costly, no-holds-barred nightmare of mayhem in close combat with casualties in a week that could surpass the annual total of recent conflict. The final point on this myth reinforces the Korea example and it bears examination — Fallujah, Iraq in 2004, where warfare was reduced to a horrific, costly, and exhausting scrap in a destroyed city between two foes that fought to the death.The standard for ground combat unit composition should be whether social experimentation would have amplified our opportunity for success in that crucible, or diminished it. We gamble with our future security when we set standards for warfare based on the best case, instead of the harshest one. Myth #3 – "If they pass the physical standards, why not?" Physical standards are important, but not nearly all of the story. Napoleon –

	<p>“The moral (spirit) is to the physical as three is to one.” Unit cohesion is the essence of combat power, and while it may be convenient to dismiss human nature for political expediency, the facts are that sexual dynamics will exist and can affect morale. That may be manageable in other environments, but not in close combat. Any study of sexual harassment statistics in this age cohort – in the military, academia, or the civilian workplace — are evidence enough that despite best efforts to by sincere leaders to control the issue, human instincts remain strong. Perceptions of favoritism or harassment will...</p>
3/1/18	<p>The draft provides US citizens with a change to understand the military and what it does for the country. For individuals drafted, they are exposed to physical training, weapon skills, and job opinions which will last them a life time. My first 13 years in the military I worked with draftees. The range of education, for these draftees, ranged from 8th grade to PhD's. The exposure they had to the military service made them better people and made the military better. The draft is an important part of making the military strong - career service members, in the past learned a lot from the draftees.</p>
3/1/18	<p>Too many Americans today take their freedom for granted. I think we need a mandatory draft for all young men and women for a period, perhaps 2-3 years, of government service. Exceptions can be made for those with physical & medical limitations, but everyone else must serve. Our government could use people in many areas from the Library of Congress to our Natural Park Service in addition to our armed forces. Besides adding many workers for our government agencies, the experience of having served our country would be very beneficial to those who served. I believe this would help instill much more patriotism, pride and feeling of accomplishment for those who served as they feel like they had played an important part in keeping America the great country that it is!</p>

3/1/18	<p>1. The military draft/draft contingency is an essential component of U.S. national security. 2. I can state emphatically, the system put in place in January 1970 i.e., the lottery was fair and the continuing requirement for all 18 year old males to register is a small price to pay for freedom! Even though all combat specialties are now open to females, which is wrong on any number of levels, I categorically oppose requiring females to register for the draft, some form of National Service yes, but not the draft!!!!!!!!!!!!!! 3. To increase participation, we first must restore respect for our institutions. Money has perverted all levels of government and our idealistic young people see this. It should not be a surprise the military annually comes out first in terms of institutional respect and the absence of money as a motivator is one of the keys. Frankly, we as a nation should be prayerful that we have been able to field such an incredible military given the political climate since the first President Bush administration. In short, improve the political climate and all else will follow. 4. The perception put forward by our culture that a person who seeks out the military, national or public service is either a person without other opportunities or worse a fool! 5. Of course, service has inherent value, only a person who has not served would even ask this question, but I realize most of the people you talk to have not served. Service makes boys into men, men with a stake in the outcome. Corporations stand in line to hire former military Why? I will tell you why, because they bring to the table traits and characteristics which herald success and they know how it feels to be cold, tired, hungry and scared of failure for failure often times means lives. Yet they still perform not for money, but for something bigger than themselves, that something we call the United States of America! 6. Mandatory service or as I referred to it as National Service would not only be valuable but essential to instilling respect for our institutions. All mentally and physically fit citizens upon reaching the age of 18 should serve in some capacity toward the collective good with the military being only one option. Is it feasible? I would say it is essential. There was a time in our country when all males regardless of their station served resulting in the American Century and we must do that again. It would require an incredible bureaucracy, but a small price to pay, so that the American Century becomes the American Millennium. 7. With the introduction of National Service the propensity to serve is no longer in our lexicon, but since I am a realist, and I know many people in our nation believe themselves to be above service, I would suggest we remove money from the political landscape. This could be done by publicly financing all elections from local to federal, therefor special interests would loose their appeal.</p>
3/1/18	<p>I am a retired AF Lt. Col., AF Academy grad, and Vietnam Veteran combat pilot. It is my belief that the ending of the draft requirement and the resulting service by a broad spectrum of society, has been disastrous for our country. With these unending wars in the Middle East and elsewhere, the current force is incredibly overtaxed. The Guards and Reserves are being used as, effectively, active duty forces to make up for the lack of same. The citizens are not willing to pay what it would take to fund a full active duty force. The politicians are afraid to be truthful with the citizens! What ended our adventure in Vietnam? Not any sort of victory! The draft and subsequent mass protests caused Nixon to run on pulling out, the correct decision in my mind. The so-called Vietnamization of the war was a joke! I was there in 1972/73. I saw what was happening. I predicted its failure, and, in 1975, the failure occurred! Had we a draft prior to our starting the wars in the Middle East, there would be no starting of the wars or, if so, they would soon be ended by the same mass protests! The question should not be, can we maintain some semblance of an all volunteer fighting force? The question should be, if our leaders decide to start a war, should not the whole of our citizenry be involved. Perhaps more thoughts to come!</p>
3/1/18	<p>1. Military draft only in case of national emergency. 2. Think women should register with Selective Service, as long as deferments are still allowed. 3. Benefits have to be increased each budget year. 4. Not getting quality benefits and compensation comprable to civilians. 5. Retirement after 20, love of country, pride in serving, seeing the world! 6. Seems to be a real plus for Israel. It would really help our youth(men and women) to become more responsible and decide on a career path sooner. A service either in military or other government service. Allow them a choice which field to go after. 7.</p>

	Advertising the benefits, some college credit, college tuition credits for time served, job placement after service for those not attending college! Thanks for allowing me to offer suggestions.
3/1/18	My comments, as a 33 year former Air Force fighter group commander: 1.Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? Yes 2.Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Yes. Include women; Eliminate most deferments not related to health issues. Make it fair to all classes - poor, rich, elites. 3.How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? By having our leaders and the elites participate, themselves and their children. The British Royal family have their children serve, but ours seem too good for military service. Where are the Bush, Clinton, Obama, and Trump children in the military? And we are talking about military service - why is national and public service in the mix? You want the CCC and WPA back? 4.What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? Disincentives caused by asinine policies like political correctness, diversity, elitist attitudes (only the stupid serve, etc.) 5.Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? If you have to ask that question, you are not a true American. 6.Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible Yes, yes, and yes. We can't have the burden of America's defense carried by less than 1 % of its citizens. We are creating an isolated, Hessianized force. 7.How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? It starts with leadership, at all levels in all areas. Presidents that encourage us to serve. Congress that treats the military well and honors it accordingly. A media that hates the military and needs to be countered. Corporations that realize their success and profitability depends on a strong and free America. Schools that encourage basic civics, enlightened citizenship, and respect for those who risk all to keep them safe and free. 8. Is this National Commission a waste of time? Yes. It has the wrong people asking the wrong questions on the wrong issues which will pad resumes but will not result in any meaningful changes or improvements to correct the increasing dearth of civic responsibilities that are the roots of the demise of our military, its culture for defending freedom, and its acceptance as a noble calling by the majority of Americans. If Pearl Harbor were tomorrow, Admiral Yamamoto would be telling his officers that "we have attacked a sleeping giant, and his pervasive apathy and antipathy to its defenders will ensure he remains sleepy and docile."
3/1/18	1 Every citizen should serve Public Service for two years. Qualified in Military. Another in National Health Service, National Parks, Infrastructure maintenance and repairs or Homeland Security. 2 Yes, all must serve. Ne exceptions. 3 Mandatory service or two years in prison. 4 The me generation believes they owe nothing. The entitled believe they are the elite rulers. The racists think service is chumps making Whites look good. 5 Yes, it is an equalizer. The draftees were just as honourable and trustworthy as we enlistees. 6 Everyone must learn that America and Freedom are a dream come true. I have visited factory's are well served by very disabled people. They were diligent, proud, capable and wanted to work away from the "institution" that housed them. 7 A narrative must begin in the schools. Serving in combat, or rebuilding a community destroyed by earth quake, or teaching in a refugee camp is all honourable public service. There must be no loop home to evade or avoid service. Money, religious, disability, race, gender, status does not get you out. Consequence, loss of citizenship, can never own property, or serve in any public office or on a board of a company . Interment camp where you will physically work a landfill, waste reclamation or other menial yet valuable job.

3/1/18	<p>1. Yes I believe that a Draft Contingency is still necessary. 2. YES To have a system that makes all males age 18-25 FELONS if they "are convicted" (however that is applied) in addition to threatening them with loss of benefits for the rest of their lives while giving all females of any age a pass, is not only totally outrageous it goes against all of the so-called equality that is SUPPOSED to be supported by our government. EQUAL treatment, either require female registration or drop it for all males. 3. Positive presentation, just like any other company in this country who is looking for talent. 4. I do not have a well informed answer for this, but I suspect that legal weed in many states has not helped. Also, there seems to be a strong trend among younger people that the rules do not apply to them, leading to many having legal problems. 5. Military service has many benefits for "most" who serve. It is a great transition time for those who may not have a clear direction for their lives. For many, it may be the first time that they are taught personal responsibility for their actions, not only as their actions effect them, but also the people around them, including life and death consequences. Service can teach people life long skills that can/may be transferable to civilian life. For many, lifelong friendships will be formed. 6. I do not believe it is mandatory, it is definitely valuable and I do not have a clue if it is feasible any longer in this country. 7. See 3 above. The problem is, I have lost faith in many of our political and business leaders to provide a positive image of public service, with the military taking the brunt of that fallout. I believe that military service is seen as to demanding, as in, the individual would be actually required to do something for their pay. I am sorry that I can not provide more constructive answers to your questions. I spent almost 29 years in the service and my views are admittedly slanted. Thank you for the opportunity to participate.</p>
3/1/18	<p>#6. The answers are Yes, Yes and Yes! #5, EVERY able-bodied American should be required to serve a mandatory period of national service of one of these listed. All should give back to the Country which gives them SO MUCH. #7. This entire country needs to determine a course of action to instill a sense of concern and patriotism among our young people AND the citizenry as a whole. We are sorely lacking in this respect today. AND it is becoming worse with every passing year.</p>
3/1/18	<p>Mandatory military or public service should be required of all citizens to deal with domestic threats and emergencies and international threats. Call it citizenship training. It would also help us address the issue of guns by making military or domestic service a condition of possessing a weapon.</p>
3/1/18	<p>!. Absolutely! More now than ever before. The lack of an active draft system is what is causing our nation to be so divided with so much lack of responsibility towards achieving our common goals. Look at Switzerland - the most successful democracy and most patriotic nation in the world. It has an active national service (aka draft system) and the most successful one in the world. The answers to the remainder of the questions are self evident after we re-institute a national draft which includes the military draft. Everyone should be required to serve our nation for a period of time actively and be "on call" thereafter. All this is a "no brainer" for anyone who is a student of global politics. An all volunteer military is not the answer - never has been. A draft system levels the playing field and instills a better sense of team work to achieve common national goals.</p>
3/1/18	<p>During the draft years in Vietnam, all levels of American society contributed to the military effort. We actually met people from different parts of the country, different levels of society and we all had to work together to finish the mission. Selective service system should be modified to have all 18 year olds register, both male and female, just in case the all volunteer service does not continue to provide the numbers needed to provide our national defense. The biggest barrier to public service, national or military, is the biased media reporting by most of the mainstream media and our higher education (college, university) bias against military service. Being as I retired with over 20 years Army service, went from E-1 to O-4 in those 20 years, received my college and advanced degrees from that military service, there is great value in military service. After retiring from the Army, I continued 20 more years service to the country while working for California Institute of Technology and supporting technology transfer from research/development to military applications. Mandatory service for all Americans in some capacity would help 'pay back' for all we receive from our great country. As for</p>

	<p>increasing the propensity for young Americans to serve, getting the national news media to understand their role in providing balanced truthful reporting on all topics would be beneficial. We no longer have a Walter Cronkite or Paul Harvey with 'the rest of the story', we only receive biased reporting and have to look to international news media to provide the 'other side' of a story. I hope this helps.</p>
3/1/18	<p>1: Yes, a militart draft remains a necessary component of our national security. 2: Yes, both men & women should be subject to the selective service. 3: Increase the size, flexibility and utility of our Guard and Reserve forces, beyond the current FTS/SELRES/IRR construct, which is antiquated and not reflective of 21st century work/life habits. Individuals should be able to serve as easily (with compensation) as they can volunteering in civic organizations or driving for Uber. 4. Time and/or scheduling constraints are likely to be the primary factor; however, there are also many members of our community that are not fully-legal citizens. Service should reward these individuals with a faster pathway to citizenship, and legal residency status in the interim. 5. Yes, service has inherent value. It provides the individual with a sense of self-worth, confidence, better understanding of one's skill shortfalls, and the means to improve oneself. 6. Yes, although mandatory service should not include the military except in a time of war. Mandatory service should include opportunities to serve in our public education system, criminal justice system, and improving or strengthening our environment - all areas that are critically important to all citizens, that are nearly always also critically underfunded. 7. Service is a calling, and ultimately no amount of heartfelt or slick advertising can convince anyone otherwise opposed to give up their most precious commodity (time); this is why I believe compelled mandatory service is essential to ensure civic participation. Individuals who do not want to serve our nation in any capacity, military or otherwise, are freeriders of the goodwill of others.</p>
3/1/18	<p>Opportunity should exist for America 's youth to serve our America in some way. Am firm believer in manditory military service for minimum three years. Those unable to qualify for military service should serve in another way by performing some form of organized public service. As senior military officer/Commander have seen positive and sometimes profound changes which can occur when our youth are afforded opportunity/exposure for/to discipline, proper healthcare, and stable/healthy environ.</p>

3/1/18	<p>1. Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? YES. Compulsory military service registration should be an integral part of our security planning. 2. Are modifications to the selective service system needed? YES. Exemptions must be 'fair', and perceived as fair. 3. How can the U.S. increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? BE PREPARED for opposing views. Have a clear and convincing plan for presenting the reasons for participation. The plan should include documents, videos, speeches, media interviews, and other similar elements, in a structured, organized, integrated, campaign for educating and informing the public. 4. What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? LACK OF most political members and leaders having served in the military. Politicians have little motivation to pass laws requiring their family and friends to serve our country. Most have avoided military service and believe it is for the poor and non-connected. Expect any legislation to have great loop holes for them and their ilk. 5. Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? YES. Military (or National) service allows for a significant number of citizens to actively participate in governmental processes. It can improve the effectiveness of government operations and oversight. National (non-military) service can add to government and NGO efforts for improving the life and opportunities of those striving to gain access to the middle class. It lowers the divide between "them" (the military), and "us" (the ruling class). Eventually, as has been the case during history, having a great portion of the population having participated in military service can improve government when those who rule have had military service. Those who do not understand war, are the first to want to send others to fight. 6. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? YES, YES, and YES. The devil is in the details . . . mostly how exemptions are structured. 7. How does the U.S. increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? SEE #3 above. A comprehensive campaign of education, information, and motivation. Many nations have (or have had) compulsory military and/or national service and should be used as examples. E.g. Israel, Germany, France. The US's historical experiences with the draft (both PRO & CON) should be discussed with emphasis on the benefits (PRO's) that were achieved, and how a new draft (National Service) program can improve on past experiences.</p>
3/1/18	<p>I think we need to institute a national service program. At age 18 (or completion of high school) every citizen should commit to two years of service to the nation. That could be military or Peace Corps or medical service. Pay would be minimal but include housing and meals.</p>
3/1/18	<p>Every able bodied American citizen, male AND female, should be required to enroll in and established draft for military service. The services can establish qualification guidelines. Those not qualified for the military draft should be required to do a minimum of two years public service in support of our country -- VISTA volunteer, Peace Corps, serving in local programs dealing with the homeless, etc.</p>
3/1/18	<p>There are two reasons, in my opinion, to reinstate the draft. Both have to do with what I consider this country's overcommitment to world involvement. Firstly, the combat arms seem to be having a hard time meeting recruitment goals to maintain current commitments. This is causing the standards for acceptance keep being lowered. I believe the draft would alleviate this problem. Secondly, a reinstatement of the draft is a sure way to get us out of Afghanistan and various non-essential world deployments. The draft would bring such a hue and cry from the public that a Vietnam type shutdown of some of these foolish deployments. I have answered question #1. Women should be signing up for the draft (#2). The draft should bring in people of all skills (#3). My second remark, above, answers #4. To me #5 and #6 are almost identical. Regarding both, service (particularly military service) provides one with discipline and a "can do" attitude and self-reliance. Regarding #7, I say that if the "young Americans" fail to serve on their own then the draft would provide that opportunity. 'Nuff said</p>

3/1/18	<p>Requiring all individuals (male and female) to serve the nation in some capacity for 2 years (before they turn 30) would reduce the impression that only the poorer families bear the cost of our wars, would increase opportunities for people to learn more about people who are "not like them," and would give everyone a common experience. It would require a big effort to develop opportunities outside those already available in the military. AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, Teach for America would be good models to look at. The national parks need help; the infrastructure needs help; cities and counties have been cutting back services. Rural areas need doctors, nurses, dentists and teachers. It would not be cheap; and there would always be issues to consider - like is it more valuable for this med school grad continue education to become world class cancer researcher than to serve for 2 years. And, money would be a big issue. How do we pay, house and feed all these young ! people as they serve? Do we send them out in groups? How much leadership do we need? To be done right, it will take a lot of planning and lead time.</p>
3/1/18	<p>1. Yes, if China and Russia exercise their strength and decide to play some games, we are going to need all the manpower possible. We barely had enough personnel between Iraq and Afghanistan because the politicians refused to follow the Powell Doctrine and ensure sufficient men in the fight. We can't expect to win another World War without the draft. 2. Yes, women need to register for the draft. They wanted equality, welcome to the club. The only exception to this would be to ensure a sufficient population of women to recover the losses in a war (making babies), but birth rates are decreasing in some areas so welcome those ladies to the fight while ensuring a sufficient female population remains in the rear to maintain our population requirements. Also, when people sign up for Selective Service, send them information on the Military, government service opportunities, etc. Most high schools don't teach their students about opportunities outside of college like trade school, military, service organizations, etc. which would be a valuable opportunity for many to escape their life circumstances or do something better in their life. 3. Mandatory service like in Western Europe. You don't want to join the military, that's fine. Have them be caretakers at national sites, tour guides, etc. No more of this 1% of the population protects the other 99%. That needs to end and the politicians need to be the first ones who are drafted for services. Put everyone on equal footing, no deferments, no exceptions. You can only be elected if you have served the nation through the military or civil service in the homeland. 4. Criminal Activity, lack of discipline, lack of civic responsibility, refusal by some parts of academia to recognize the importance of civil service, obesity, laziness, and general stupidity. 5. Yes, discipline and direction in life that you don't get from the family that wants to protect you and a society that believes in selfishness everything being about "me." 6. Yes, this 1% of the nation covers down for the rest is bullshit. Civil Service should be mandatory in order to instill a sense of discipline and selfless service that the average citizen is not receiving at school or at home. It's feasible as long the politicians sack up and do their job. We constantly hear about government agencies that don't have enough personnel to fulfill their requirements, etc. Use mandatory civil service to fill the void and fix the nation's issues. 7. Instill a sense of discipline and self-less service from a young age i.e.-Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, youth organizations, etc. Reduce the celebrity persona of me first. Teach the values of empathy and selflessness.</p>
3/1/18	<p>The draft should never have been terminated!!</p>

3/1/18	<p>1. Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? Probably a contingency. It would only be necessary in a protracted ground war. Draft registration could be eliminated by using driver's license information from the states. This would avoid a national bureaucracy for the draft and save money, and the driver's license info would provide all the information needed to identify potential draftees. Since driver's license info is already stored electronically, access would be fast. 2. Are modifications to the selective service system needed? See above 3. How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? Higher bonuses for those in critical skill levels. Loosened physical standards for high skill individuals that need not go into combat. Nerds are typically not fit, but have the critical skills. 4. What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? Too much politics. Transgender: The solution is obvious. No medical procedure for military members that is not required to maintain their deployability. This eliminates most elective surgery. Transgender surgery does not fit that requirement. Also, hormone treatments for transgender could end suddenly and perhaps tragically if captured in combat or separated from the supply chain. Women in combat only if they meet the same physical standard of the men. Probably still wouldn't work due to the dirt and lack of privacy in combat, along with the chivalrous nature of men. Gays. Don't ask, don't tell, don't exhibit gay activities. General discharge if they do. Blind eye to Islam. Service members need to know that another fort hood style shooting will not be called "workplace violence". Persecution of religion. Christians are being silenced by the command structure. 5. Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? Virtue is its own reward. Service is a virtue. Military service has inherent value. Service provides an "other centered" viewpoint of life, which directly affects how the veteran perceives his place in society. 6. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? Mandatory military service is too cost prohibitive and would be a discipline nightmare for officers and NCOs. Many inductees would act up just to get out. Mandatory non-military service is a utopian dream with no empirical evidence of having a positive effect. Also cost prohibitive and a discipline nightmare, but without the apparatus to hold discipline that exists in the military command structure. 7. How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? Appeal to duty, honor, country. The good ones will respond.</p>
3/1/18	<p>1. Yes - there should be a "obligation" there does not need to be a requirement (registration vis actual Draft) but our citizens need to know that there is "obligation!" 2. Yes I believe women and men need to be treated the same. 3. Make the "Pay and Benefits comparable to the civilian world. 4. Currently the pay and benefits are not comparable. 5. Yes - career entry experience - something that everyone needs. 6. Mandatory registration is needed. Mandatory service would be based on current circumstances 7. Again pay and benefits!</p>
3/1/18	<p>Many other countries have a draft and military service as an integral part of their culture. It should be here too, but draftees should have a choice of services...i.e., not forcing everyone into the Army or Marines. A two year commitment might help the muddled headed young idealists in our country gain a better perspective of the world around them. As a 26 year veteran I would strongly support this as a way to properly staff our military services.</p>
3/1/18	<p>I believe every physically fit male and female should serve in some form(military, public service, or peace corp) for a period of at least 2 years. I also believe all should be educationally deferred from this service until age 23 as long as FULLY (15 semester hours minimum) enrolled in higher education. But again, this deferment cannot go on forever (any further than 23 years of age)! To this end I also believe every male and female should be required to sign up (register) for service at the age of 18. All should sign up at this age and unless college deferred, be prepared to serve within 1 year of high school graduation. I believe this would instill responsibility and maturity in kids at this age as well as pride in themselves and the nation.</p>

3/1/18	I feel the draft should be reinstated so that all generations of both male and female have the opportunity to fully understand the importance of protecting our democracy. We have two generations presently that have no idea of the importance of protecting our democracy. The military also is missing out on the intelligence and ability of our younger generation. The present volunteer system does not provide for this. I know from 39 years the reserve forces the importance pdf being part of the military protecting the great USA.
3/1/18	I believe that some form of required national service is a good thing for Americans. It does not necessarily need to be a military draft, but perhaps something like the CCC. Right now, too few members of Congress have ever served, so they have no idea what they are voting on when it comes to sending our troops to war. I served 23 years in the army on active duty as an Infantryman. That experience gave me much experience when it comes to what kind of conflicts we should be involved in and to what extent. A CCC-type requirement would benefit the country by providing resources to improve our infrastructure and national parks.
3/1/18	1. Yes, emphatically so. Once the general public believes there is no need for the possibility of national mobilization, I believe recruitment would suffer even more than it already does. 2. Yes. Now that all military specialties are supposedly gender neutral (in terms of who can participate or apply), all individuals of both genders should be required to register (and be subject to call-up). 3. Not sure how, given the fact that less than 3% of the population trusts the Government to do the right thing "most of the time," or "some of the time." We need a dramatic change in popular culture (especially on the left side of the political spectrum), and I am not optimistic there. 4. Drug addiction, felony convictions (with very limited exceptions for one-time, non-violent offenses -- not convictions which are usually pled down, but original offenses), physical disqualification (not enough room here to explore in more detail). 5. You're preaching to the choir here. If one loves one's country, service is an honored calling. 6. Yes, yes and (given today's political and cultural environment) no. 7. This seems like a different way of asking the third question above. But, inspirational leaders on the national, state and local levels could make a difference. Unfortunately, we don't elect our best to lead (because they're not running for office). Sorry to sound so cynical. Maybe it's a function of age (72 and counting). V/R Frederic W. Burr; Cmdr, USN (Ret)
3/1/18	1. Yes, absolutely, the military draft is still a necessity. 2. Yes, to assure exemptions to the lottery are held to a minimum and only temporary. 3. The military draft should only be applicable to military service and not include national/public service. 4. No barriers to military service. National/public service is certainly not an adequate substitute for military service. 5. If drafted between high school and college, military service is amazingly beneficial to the individual and the country, and I speak from experience training and commanding draftees in the 1950s. 6 Yes, mandatory service is necessary, valuable and feasible. It is vital that all American individuals and families be represented in the military services. They have an obligation to share in the sacrifices if they expect to participate in the benefits. 7. The government needs to promote military service as being honorable and a way to earn ones share of the benefits. It is unfortunate that senior military personnel promote the Voluntary Army which gives them much more selective troops which are much easier to lead/command but which are much less representative of the people. Leo B. Mihas, Col-USA, ret
3/1/18	1. Yes, in today's environment in the event of a national emergency, putting a draft system into place will take too much time. It needs to be in place and fine tuned now in case a major mobilization is required ASAP. 2. The system has not been updated to my knowledge in over 30 years. 3. Require all citizens to serve in some roll of public or military service if physically able. 4. Physical capability and education skills. 5. Yes. It will expand every participant's awareness of service to others and to their country. 6. I believe mandatory service is a valuable source of knowledge and self awareness at an age where many teens and young 20 year olds have no idea what occupation or skills they wish to pursue. 7. Make service mandatory for those with the physical and mental talent to serve , and provide reasonable education/finanacial benefits for their future.

3/1/18	National public service for a period of two years should be mandatory for all citizens and legal residents between the ages of 18 and 25 years. This could take the form of military or public service with the choice made by the individual citizen. Long term value to the culture of the nation would be to create a sense of ownership in the adult population of the nation.
3/1/18	1. A military draft should be a part of US National security. It never should have been dropped. there should be no exemptions except for mental or physical disabilities. Those who can not meet requirements should be afforded alternative service. 2. I do not know enough about the system criteria to comment specifically. 3. I believe we start increasing participation in all areas by reinvigorating the teaching of US history and Civics in public schools. Additionally, a national commitment to improving physical fitness of our school children is essential. Interaction with public servants, NGO volunteer organizations, and military personnel (active, retired, guard, or reserve), should be built into school programs. 4. Poor physical condition of the nation's youth is an impediment to military service, though not necessarily other types of service. The fact that few public servants have a military background any more is another barrier. A ground up approach is needed. Education about opportunities, purpose and responsibilities of service would be a good starting point. 5. Service has value: discipline, problem solving, confidence, responsibility are enhanced through service. 6. Mandatory service requirements could be valuable, though it may not be feasible across the board. Our country produces a lot of people who are unmotivated and unwilling to educate themselves to the opportunities available, have no desire to serve others and would be a detriment to any worthwhile program. In other words, the cost in time and money to bring some along toward national service of any kind, may not be worth the effort, so there would have to be a screening process. &. Education, education, education.
3/1/18	My 23 years service overlapped with DRAFT & ALL Volunteer. I found DRAFT during WW I & VN an EQUALITARIAN AMERICAN LEVELING experience. Exposure to other races, ethnicities, classes, educational & LIFE experiences. WE ALL learned to pull as TEAM to survive & succeed... or NOT. Doing away with the DRAFT was a cynical political decision to take heat off politicians. But favoritism existed during VN DRAFT to people like Junior Bush in Air Guard to despicable TRUMP & his flat feet. Close the LOOPHOLES for Rich or connected to make DRAFT FAIR for ALL. 1. YES DRAFT Contingency REQUIRED component for nat'l security. 2. YES -- Give kids options to perform NATIONAL SERVICE in variety of ways. My son is Quaker, other family Mennonites who were CO's or DIED during WW II in combat. Both belief systems served but in different ways. Look at our national needs & consider multiple options where citizens could serve with MEANING & HONOR. My daughter also needs a role !!! My kids also received advanced degrees. They could be allowed to find a FIT with Nat'l Svs choices IF provided some choice & input. 3. Medical, Public Health, Learning career paths, NOT Free College or Vocational - TECH training, but with a NAT'L service commitments to EARN it. Infrastructure (learn to use heavy equipment, or a shovel & work ethic); etc etc etc. THINK of the POSSIBILITIES & needed Transition time most young adults need to mature & find their way. This could be a WIN WIN for America & the INDIVIDUAL !! 4. POLITICAL WILL & politicians bought by special interests (the MAJORITY who have NEVER served anything other than their own interests or efforts to be whores to \$\$\$ to stay in office! - Too harsh? You should hear the range of civilian citizens I've encountered in my 72 yrs who increasingly hold this view.) The other Barrier sadly are Individuals who are still just as self serving & narcissistically motivated as during VN. HOW can politicians appeal legitimately to Millennials generation that individual needs can be met by NAT'L SVS options that appeal to their own self interests & their parents? Figure it out.... 5. Sadly FREEDOM is NOT FREE (trite? but TRUE). Ask most IMMIGRANTS to America & they'll agree. Sadly, even folks from PR (Purto Rican') after hurricanes have been treated as 2nd class which is wrong. I believe there's a statue at Arlilngton Cemetary with (paraphrased) quote about "CITIZEN ARMY" You don't have to go to West Point or any Military Academy to learn & absorb values taught in the military. 6. MAKE it FEASIBLE before a National Emergency occurs. Take steps and gradually increase options to make it interesting and desirable. Most

	<p>High Schools have built in "Service Learning" or Volunteer hours; colleges like to see it on applications. Politicians have ignored the foundations already being built to extend this to NAT'L SVS. Do SOMETHING !!! 7. Read what I just said and challenge POLITICIANS></p>
3/1/18	<p>1. The only fair way to fill the military ranks is to draft so that everyone serves. 2. Modify the draft by granting fewer exemptions. 3. Fast promote those with necessary skills. 4. One barrier is the low esteem of those serving today within our society. 5. Proud service elevates one's ego. 6. Mandatory service is the only fair way for all to participate in our society. 7. Challenge all young Americans to contribute by proudly wearing the American uniform.</p>
3/1/18	<p>Compulsory military service did not lead to a better military, as we have seen; but it may well have led to a better citizenry. Those that never served have no true concept of self or shared sacrifice for the good of the whole. Required National Service does not put these young adults in a position where they must compromise their beliefs. Many countries have compulsory service which helps reduce the cost of beneficial government programs and instill a sense of unity within its citizenry. There are many areas in which they could serve in other than the military services, the U.S. Public Health Service, the National Fire Fighting Service, or the National Park Service just to name a few. Institutions of higher education are great at fostering independence but do very little to develop camaraderie and team spirit. A great number of benefits can be achieved through this service, both for the individual and the country. The individual will gain valuable on-the-job experience learning to be part of a team putting concepts into practice. Receiving an intern's wage, they won't experience the frequent period of post-graduation unemployment, but immediately become a contributing member of society. Natural leaders will rise to the top and benefit greatly by being able to hone those skills in a non-retribution environment. Best of all, its gender neutral. Terms of service can be adjusted based on departmental need with possible extensions for the repayment of school debt.</p>

3/1/18	<p>Yes, draft registration is still required to ensure sufficient personnel are available in the event of a national crisis. All U.S. citizens should be required to register...equality is not a gender issue. I would like to see some form of either mandatory or encouraged national service program that would enhance patriotism, reduce the divisiveness of modern day politics, and help counter the self-centered nature of much of the social media culture by promoting a "service before self" national mentality. The tremendous value of military/national service cannot be overstated. As the percentage of veterans declines in Congress, Civil Service, Federal and State leadership, educators, and the general populous, so declines the understanding of what it means to serve and what our military does for us on a daily basis to preserve our freedoms. Serving one's country should be done willingly and would provide the best understanding of what it means to be an American...experience is the best teacher. Such service could be rewarded through minimum wages combined with higher education vouchers, social security credits, etc. National service could support the military in administrative and logistical areas, support national and even global disaster relief, and U.S. infrastructure improvements. The age of service sweet spot would be after high school graduation and before starting college or career employment, but could be deferred until after either college or vocational training is completed. That would ensure some participants would have the skills necessary for complex tasks. While such a program would cost money, services provided could significantly offset/reduce much of the money spent on welfare and other programs such as FEMA and Red Cross disaster relief. With program support, portions of the defense budget could also be refocused from labor-intensive tasks to military training and technology. The U.S. can increase the propensity for! Americans to serve by passing a comprehensive national service law that makes service both patriotic and attractive through a concerted educational campaign similar to WW II U.S. Savings Bonds and "Rosie the Riveter" war support-type campaigns.</p>
3/1/18	<p>1. Yes, the world is too unstable to do otherwise, too much risk not to have a contingency. 2. I, and I think most people, don't know enough about the selective service to comment. Consider an education campaign to inform the American people of what it is and why we need it. And girls should be required to register at 18. A policy that waives the requirement to register if they do public service for 2 years might encourage service. Start a "Service Corps". 3. 2 year mandatory service for all, service of any kind. A call to service by the President. Consider tying education benefits to service, of any kind. Start a "Service Corps". Create a positive view of participating in it. 4. Many of these. Stereotypes and misconceptions of military service, no or little national propensity to serve, lack of parental or veterans support for the idea, and all the factors that make 70% ineligible for the military now. Lack of physical work ethic in upbringing, no understanding and/or denial that there is a threat out there and my country needs me, perception that I will be sent off to a god forsaken country to do something that 50 years from now doesn't matter. 5. Absolutely. One could write a short book on this. But the public generally doesn't know. 6. Yes, yes, yes. Would be a culture shock to most of the millennials and younger, but the country needs that shock. Need to emphasize that they can make a difference in the world through military or other service. 7. Have veterans, especially younger ones, tell their stories in a national marketing campaign. The issue is "its all about me" in this generation. someone else will do the dirty work of defending and serving. We have to challenge parents to encourage their kids to serve.</p>
3/1/18	<p>Every American citizen should be required to serve the country for two years either in the military or some social welfare program. This type of service is needed to build a sense of duty and togetherness so important in modern America. Properly managed it would create a period in each individuals life during which all would be equal regardless of class status and whether one is rich or poor.</p>

3/1/18	<p>My concern is the American public no longer identifies with the US Military. I am retired Air Force. I joined when there was a draft and people between 18 and 25 talked about the military and the US policies that involved the military from a personal involvement point of view. Now, if one does not plan to join the military or hold office, it appears they are disconnected from the US Military. I don't know if the draft would resolve this issue or not. I would prefer that both men and women had to register for two years of service to their community with the US Military being only one of many choices to fulfill the requirement. Other service opportunities could include many public works such as volunteer to work as a staffer in congress, build houses for the homeless, Election Boards, Peace Corps, Americorps or civil service work as a volunteer. Service broadens peoples perspectives through experience. Service might provide better understanding of national issues. ! Concern about our national security and policies seem detached from individuals. We need each citizen to participate with more effort as a concerned citizen to make America the best it can be.</p>
3/1/18	<p>Patriotism and service to country should not be left to just those in uniform. All citizens should serve in some capacity so everyone has some "skin in the game". We now have graduated to a political class with no military or public service experience running the country. I am a career retired US Army officer who served under both the draft and the voluntary force. I liked the draft even with its problems. We had a huge cross section of America who went home and became leaders with experience. That is no longer true. Few citizens feel any sense of responsibility to serve and frankly look down on those who do. If you can't find a job you can always go into service. That attitude shows up in every military recruiting office. Our military should not have to get on their hands and knees begging kids to serve, nor promise the moon to lure them. I am in favor of a draft and universal service for all. I believe in 2 years of service for every able bodied US citizen. I would establish national service to support the Corps of Engineers to rebuild our infrastructure, Public Health Service to ensure universal healthcare and Indian Services, and a variety of state and local support undermanned agencies. Right now our prisons cannot hire enough corrections officers. This could be done at a cost we can afford. The current practice of allowing non-citizens to serve in the military should be stopped. That practice along with the voluntary enlistment system has marginalized the defense of the nation to the 1% that serve. There is too much emphasis on high tech, advanced weapons and hardware and not enough on developing a huge reservoir of human assets. We won WWI and II with draftees, since then we have lost every other war with the volunteer force. That force did not lose the war, it was lost politically because we have essentially lost the will to win. We now contract out our wars that are supervised by lawyers and public opinion. Our leadership is more interested in short term goals and re-election rather than the long term survival of this nation. America, the land of opportunity is also the land of responsibility. We are frittering away freedom, replacing it with too much emphasis on individual achievement and capitalistic/stock market gains. Meanwhile the roads and bridges are failing, the national debt is out of control, jails are filled, drugs are rampant. At what point does the dam collapse? As the Chinese, Russians and North Koreans plot our demise, we should be focused on countering them....not negotiating and trading with them. Instead we are engaged in a game of national political suicide doing more damage to ourselves than our enemies.</p>
3/1/18	<p>Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? -Yes Are modifications to the selective service system needed? - Yes How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? -The draft that includes the 1%'s children could help refocus them on the country, not just their wallet. What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? - Self-centered upbringing, lack of participation in society unless looking for hours to graduate, parents coddling them, lack of PE in school Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? - Makes realize there is a higher purpose than yourself Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? - By not having a draft we fail to a large extant by not bring ideas and opinions from all areas of society. How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? - Draft, as Israel does, men and women.</p>

3/1/18	Answer numbers are keyed to question numbers. 1. Yes. While the draft need not be military, every mentally and physically able citizen should be held responsible to society as a whole. 2. Yes. All genders should be subject. 3. Improve the educational system. Good luck with that. 4. Apathy and plain selfishness. 5. Yes. Improved citizen responsibility, awareness, and discipline would go a long way to curing some of the country's ills. 6. Yes, within reason. There should be minimum qualifications, but all citizens need to have some skin in the game, no matter how small. 7. See #3. Why is it that some elements of society feel they can do whatever they want with no repercussions, while others are law-abiding and productive? In general, our society is too self-centered and focused on the self, rather than considering what is best for the common good.
3/1/18	As a former "National Recruiter" for officers in the USN one of the greatest tools for recruiting was the enticement of retirement benefits. With the new retirement package, I can see it becoming a hard sell. While it seems that patriotism and National identity are on the rise in the U.S. I see it more as a reaction to the negative elements of our National optic, vice an altruistic call to service. As such, I see merit in a mandatory service requirement for all Americans, opening the door to various communities (military, NGOs, et cetera). Service does have an inherent value, simply put, it makes the one who is serving look beyond themselves and see all the others around them. In a time when we need National Unity more than anything else this is possibly the footpath to getting us there -- now, and for all perpetuity. CDR Michael G. Mueller, USN (Ret.)
3/1/18	An effective military draft is critical to the overall goals of the United States. The US cannot be viable in the long term with less than 1% of its population being involved in military matters. We must have veterans represented in large and small businesses, every level of government, and throughout our terribly skewed academic environment. A draft should be executed with minimal exceptions or deferments which must be effectively monitored with every citizen held accountable. Women must register for the draft; they cannot have it both ways. Every person I've met in my adult who ever served in the military "wishes they had stayed in." We must have senior leaders who have military experience, who understand what it means to serve, who have families who understand the sacrifices that are required, and who understand what it means to send men and women into harm's way. To continue to avoid a draft is penny-wise and pound-foolish!.
3/1/18	1. The requirement to register for the draft is still valid to support U.S. national security. 2. The system should require ALL U.S. Citizens (male and female) to register at age 18. This is in keeping with sexual equality. 3. To increase participation, education, or payment for education should be offered. 4. The only acceptable barrier to participation should be for a verified medical reason. 5. Service in the military or public service increases respect for the nation and those who dedicate their life to public service. 6. Mandatory service is not necessary or feasible. 7. Instead of advertising the different skills the military services should be advertising education.
3/1/18	If there is a global conflict, the draft should be reinstated, drafting both men and women. Currently, the budget must be increased to recruit, train and retain a readiness. Too many budget cuts has affected readiness of trained personnel and well maintained weapon systems and support equipment. If the force has not practiced, it will not be as effective in a combat situation.

3/1/18	<p>Should have national service for 2 years for everyone when they turn 18 years old. National service should include military service but also alternative service in areas that benefit education, health care, social service, environment, etc.</p> <p>There should be no exceptions except for those youths with clearly debilitation physical of cognitive disabilities. If a national service managing organization is too bureaucratic/not feasible, put everyone in a local national guard unit whose missions are in the service functions, e.g. education, environment, etc. Then hold the organizations responsible for the performance of their programs. Management of programs would initially be difficult. Many youngsters would be rebellious and there will be a good number of hard cases. Management/supervision would have to be tough but fair. Some youngsters will be unsalvageable and this must be dealt with. Selection and training of supervisors would have to be the highest priority. Military services would oppose because it is a lot harder to train and lead draftees vs volunteers. But the services have done it before and it had a wonderful effect on the men who went through the draft. From an old soldier who remembers what it was like to live in a 40 man platoon bay in basic training and how trainees learned to work together. And from an old soldier who was also a company commander in combat with draftees, who, when well led, were great soldiers. National service would be the best thing that could engender more cooperative attitudes among citizens and do the most for curing the schisms in our society.</p> <p>Not having national service will devolve our country's citizenry more antithetical to each other and eventually lead to our failure as a nation.</p>
3/1/18	<p>1. Yes 2. Yes 3. Mandatory service from all Americans between ages of 18-25. Serve two years in any branch of the government. Choose when to serve your two years. 4. "Entitlement" attitudes of average Americans. Expectation of something for nothing and the government should take care of them. Other barriers are funding of DOD to manning levels necessary to support current operations. 5. Yes. Respect for service and sacrifice. Value for effort, critical managerial and organizational skills. 6. Yes 7. Outside of compulsory service, you must make the jobs look appealing. More freedom of personal actions by enlisted.</p>
3/1/18	<p>WE LIVE IN A NATION WHERE LESS THAN 1% OF THE POPULATION HAS EVER SERVED IN THE MILITARY SERVICE AND THE REST LIVE A LIFE OF LEISURE AND LUXURY PROVIDED BY THOSE OF US WHO HAVE SERVED AND DIED TO PROTECT THEM AND GUARANTEE THEIR FREEDOM WHICH ALL OF THEM JUST PLAIN TAKE FOR GRANTED. THEY MAY JUST PLAIN BE CLASSIFIED AS FREE LOADERS. I DEFINATELY THINK THAT SOME FORM OF SERVICE TO THE NATION, EITHER JUST PLAIN PUBLIC SERVICE OR SERVICE IN THE MILITARY SHOULD BE A NECESSARY PART OF EVERYONE'S LIFE AND THEIR LIFESTYLE SHOULD REQUIRE THAT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM DO PROVIDE SOME FORM OF SERVICE TO SOMETHING OR SOMEONE OTHER THAN THEMSELVES.</p>
3/1/18	<p>Women should register for the draft same as men. If all jobs are open to all genders, then all genders register. Equal is equal.</p>
3/1/18	<p>Military draft remains necessary, but modifications are needed. I can't detail those. #3 & #6: Not all military service needs to be combat-related, although all should have such training. Like other foreign countries, all young people should serve a mandatory 2-year service to the U.S. At least one of those years should be in a foreign country anywhere in the world. Our youth are currently too pampered and cocooned. They need to see real life elsewhere. They and the U.S. will be better for it. Service has a value in inculcating young people that there is a higher calling than their smartphones. It can be a road to higher education if service is extended.</p> <p>Attract young people with advertising. Trump's big parade would be a big turn-off for young people as well as those currently serving.</p>
3/1/18	<p>We simply cannot afford an increasingly expensive all volunteer military. We need to combat code a volunteer force and draft a support force.</p>
3/1/18	<p>I have always been in favor of a national draft and have 3 boys. If we have a draft and have women involved. They should meet the same requirements as men. If drafted when they need not be given any choice where to go. For instance if 100 infantry are needed 50 men and 50 women.</p>

3/1/18	<p>1. Yes since the world is becoming more unsafe and Americans by in large do not have the respect for the military that a person who has served in the military has.</p> <p>2. Lottery system for selections irrespective of education levels 3. Critical skills personnel can be paid incentive bonuses the same as hazardous duty pay was provided 4. Drugs cause many rejections..... must clean up the drug issue and if a person is rejected by nature of drug usage, then such person should receive a special classification for the rest of his/her life. 5. The service teaches RESPONSIBILITY something many of the younger age persons do not have. 6. Yes... present system is OK 7. Better advertising and administration of special pay packages for critical skills.</p>
3/1/18	<p>THERE SHOULD BE POSITIVELY BE NO DRAFT FOR MILITARY SERVICE. SLOTS FOR ACTIVE, NATIONAL GUARD, AND RESERVE FORCES AMOUNT TO ROUGHLY 9% OF THE GENERAL POPULATION. IF YOU DRAFT PEOPLE WHO DO NOT WISH TO SERVE IN THE MILITARY YOU NOT ONLY HINDER MORALE, BUT YOU DIMINISH OVERALL READINESS TO EXECUTE COMBAT MISSIONS. I HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH A DRAFT TO FILL SLOTS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE. IF ONE CHOOSES A MILITARY SLOT IN LIEU OF CIVILIAN WORK (SO LONG AS HE OR SHE MEET'S MENTAL, PHYSICAL, AND BACKGROUND REQUIREMENTS), SO BE IT. TODAY'S MILITARY, MEN AND WOMEN, ARE THE BEST TRAINED AND EQUIPPED IN MODERN HISTORY. I SERVED IN VIETNAM AS AN ADVISER, AND, LATER AS A COMBAT COMMANDER. THAT ERA SAW A POORLY ADMINISTERED DRAFT, AND, AN INEPT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE THAT LED TO AN INEFFECTIVE FORCE-AND, A BREAKDOWN OF DISCIPLINE IN THE THE 70'S. ONE OF MY CREDENTIALS, IN THE EARLY 1980'S I WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ARMY'S MANPOWER PROGRAM, OF APPROXIMATELY 780,000 MILITARY SPACES (AND 300,000 ARMY CIVILIAN SPACES). I WORKED UNDER THE PERSONNEL CHIEF OF STAFF WHO ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR RECRUITING, MORALE PROGRAMS, ETC. THIS A VERY BRIEF RESPONSE TO A COMPLICATED ISSUE-BUT I FEEL VERY STRONGLY ABOUT MY STAND. (I COULD GO ON AND ON WITH MY OPINIONS AND DATA.)</p> <p>I SERVED IN THE ARMY FOR 32 YEARS FROM 1952 TO 1984. MAJOR GENERAL (RET) WALTER J. MEHL</p>
3/1/18	<p>Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? I believe there is benefit in mandatory service. It gives every citizen a national identity and common bond as Americans.</p>
3/1/18	<p>An equitable military draft is an essential companion-piece to a rational, international policy: when congressmen are again required to send their sons and daughters into harms-way, we'll have a more thoughtful and an international and foreign policy the better reflects the will of the people in our republic. Our practice of "giving citizenship" to foreign nationals who serve in our military is little more than the "political class" buying mercenaries to compensate for deficiencies of an "all volunteer force". In fact, this demonstrates that our "all volunteer force" is neither "all" nor "volunteer".</p>
3/1/18	<p>1. Yes. We will have it if we need it. 2. Yes. Women should register. 3. Pay them what they are worth on the open market. 4. No draft fears. 5. There are skills developed that will benefit the individual and the post service market. Of course there is the value to America for the security provided by a strong military. 6. I believe that in normal time, an all volunteer service should be the norm. But for those that do not serve, they should pay a federal tax annually to support those that are and did serve. 7. Make the pay at least a reasonable living wages and provide long-term rewards for a minimum 20 year career. Maintain a strong GI bill for vocational training and college attendance. Go back to the old retirement (20 year) and medical benefits. Active service members and their families should not be required to pay any medical costs. The willingness of an individual to give best years of his/her life, with the physiological and psychological damage incurred over a 20 year career, should be rewarded with lifetime pay supplement and healthcare benefits. Starting over at age 40 in a civilian career is not easy and is in many cases disregards the military service given. Most civilians positions are at their peak earnings at that point and the ex-military person having to start at the bottom with an age disadvantage.</p>

3/1/18	<p>After reading articles on the quality of the recruiting pool, I feel it is quite necessary to reinstate the draft. Deferments must be closely scrutinized in order to not make it not so easy to get a pass. This should greatly increase the size of the pool and the access to healthy, qualified specimens. M.E. Wilmoth, LCDR USCG RET</p>
3/1/18	<p>• Patriotism without public service is just a lot of pompous hot air. Service raises awareness that the government is US – not THEM. • The draft should offer dignified public service alternatives to uniformed service. Not all of us are warrior material. • The AVF has raised national defense personnel costs significantly. Moreover, the AVF job failure rate (admin discharges) of 36% is unsat. DOD is attracting too many economic refugees - not warriors. Based on my 32-year Navy career, my impression is that the draft-era enlisted force had a higher aptitude. Many of my troops attended college on the GI Bill. • Military service, especially combat, hastens maturation. I doubt that I would have earned a PhD after Vietnam were it not for the 6 years I spent maturing in uniform. I returned to school focused, goal-oriented, and resilient. • Is mandatory service necessary? ABSOLUTELY. I never would have set foot in the military if service was optional. My part-time employer offered me a management position when I got my BA. However, I got orders to report for duty. After my obligated service, I served in the Reserves to help with expenses while I pursued my doctorate. Later, serving on the faculty of a prestigious medical school, Navy called me out of the blue and "invited" me to return to uniformed service to head up a special project. Had I never served, I never would have given the offer serious thought. Being a retired Navy Captain with 32 years of service, I obviously did accept Navy's offer. Mandatory service started the entire chain of events. Finally, you cannot increase the propensity to serve in uniform by offering more salary! People are not fools. Military service is hard work and you can get killed doing it. Our Washington leaders are such bad role models of patriotism, most people view government with suspicion and/or scorn. Thus, patriotism offers zero leverage. JFK showed that presidential leadership does animate service interest among the young. But a president who dodged the draft is not that leader - maybe the next one. That is why mandatory public service in entry-level jobs is about the only way to expose people to the rewards of public service in or out of uniform. Sincerely, Thomas F. Hilton, PhD (Capt, USN, Ret) / [REDACTED]</p>
3/1/18	<p>1. I am unsure about reinstating the draft, but do see advantages to ; I agree a draft contingency should be maintained. 2. Women should register; any draft needs to be universal - limited exceptions. 3. Make service mandatory. 4. Lack of true patriotism; lack of motivation; "me vs. we" attitude; low pay. 5. Working as a team; learning a skill; whole is greater than the parts; developing friendships; patriotism; sense of cause bigger than self; pride. 6. Yes. 7. Establish mandatory service.</p>
3/1/18	<p>A mandatory draft registration is essential for quick response to a national emergency where a call-up is required. Since women may now serve in combat roles, they should also be required to register, and the process of mobilizing should be executed in much the same manner as it was done in the past. As a veteran who regularly visits public schools and serves as an advisor for students who want to attend the US Naval Academy, I am encouraged by their interest in the historical aspects of military service, but I don't see a significant number of students who want to spend time in public service or the military. They don't seem to have considered that they owe this country for the benefits of being a US citizen. Public service (not being a politician) provides an osmosis-like education which results in a much greater love of country and pride in the values and contributions that the United States has had upon the world. The all-volunteer force has met our needs since its inception, but it isn't adequately supported by our own government. The Congressmen and Senators talk a good game, but too often fail when it comes to making a positive contribution to the overall success of the military. In my opinion an overwhelming benefit of a period of mandatory service would be to eventually have a majority of the members of Congress understand what they are talking about when considering issues regarding the military. Otherwise, unless we are faced with a mass mobilization need, the all-volunteer force can do the job. I don't find many young students who have given ANY significant thought to the option of a career in the military or</p>

	<p>public service. It would be very helpful if teachers in high school would make them more aware of those options. If we could somehow influence teachers to promote careers which directly benefit the safety and security of the members of our society, we would go a long way toward raising students' awareness of the benefits associated with such career choices. John Adams Cdr. Ret., USNR</p>
3/1/18	<p>Responses by exact question number: 1. Yes, keep the draft. 2. Add young women to the pool. 3. Make "National Defense Realities" a mandatory high school course in all public schools. 4. Pacifists and anti-military sentiments are rising with "military" now equated to being a "thug", "racist" and "Nazi". 5. Service preserves the Constitution---the well-spring that nourishes our republic. 6. Narcissism & anti-militarism seems increasing among our youth. Witness AntiFa and other violent protestors. A form of compulsory military service/introduction would counter current vogue of anti-military agitators. 7. Increase education benefits of the GI Bill to include spouse. Revamp the "Troops to Teachers" program. I was a Major in combat arms with a 184 IQ level. I was turned-down in my local school system for selection to the teaching mentoring program seemingly because I was in a genuine combat specialty and had killed people. All my civilian teacher potential sponsors were non-military and allegedly anti-military, including one very vocal pacifist. Our school children are largely being brain-washed by very liberal and anti-military educators. We MUST field capable representatives of the "other viewpoint" to balance this system which is toxic to our military recruiting and our very survival as a nation. Further, "Civics" and "Constitutional Law" MUST be added back in high school curricula. Some local schools won't even let WW 2, Korea, Vietnam, or War On Terror combat be discussed--period. Their take: Glorifies violence and endorses American empirical racism~! Without a functional overhaul, we will have FEW patriotic youth wishing to provide for our defense. Respectfully, Larry Merchant, Major (Ret).</p>
3/1/18	<p>I support a mandatory draft into 2-years of public service for every young man and woman, upon graduation of high school or reaching the age of 18; no exemptions other than medical disqualification. This could take the form of military service, Peace Corp, or yet-to-be-developed public programs to serve this nation. We have generations of young people who have no real understanding of privilege living in America, nor of the responsibility to give something back. I believe, a byproduct of mandatory public service would be populate our higher education systems with young people who have goals and want to be there. Perhaps it would help return these into true institutions of learning, rather than factories of political indoctrination. Yes, I served for 22 years, both as enlisted and as an officer in the USAF.</p>

3/1/18	<p>Comparing the current military manning requirements against the qualifications of the current generation sends chills down the spine. It is obvious why the Pentagon opened all MOS's to women and changed its stance allowing the LGBT community to serve as well - the current generation of males are not capable of filling the military's requirements. Although presently all women should be required to register for the draft, the draft, as instituted, will never be allowed to be activated in our current state of social and political affairs. The memory of its unfair and discriminatory practices are still fresh in citizens minds and the military shouldn't be made to accept people they really do not want. The solution is a program of national service for 2-3 years for everyone after attaining the age of 18. The program should include options like national park service, Peace Corps, Job Corps, Civilian Conservation Corps, etc. as well as military service; but the military would get first pick of any participant instead of last. Now why wouldn't this program be rejected just like the draft? College money and experience, that's why. There has been much talk that the government should pay for college for all citizens. Well, this program would do that just like the GI Bill but the government would get service from its citizens first. People would have to successfully complete their 2-3 years in order to qualify for the educational benefits. During their service, just like the CCC, the government would house, feed, pay and clothe the participants. But this support would be at the most basic level. Teaching the participants that you only receive benefits because you earned them would be a basic tenant of the program. We may all have certain inalienable rights but defending those rights and performing service that helps everyone use those rights is essential to keeping those rights. When you don't have "skin in the game"; you tend not to care in the outcome. This program would give everyone "skin in the game".</p>
3/1/18	<p>I believe that we need to include both men and women in the selective service program to assure that we have the adequate manpower needed for our nation's defense. Right now, less than 10% of US citizens have served or even have a family member/relative who have served in the military. We can increase participation by requiring that every physically, mentally, emotionally qualified person perform some sort of military, national or public service. I would increase the funding/status/benefits for military service over the other two. Next, I would increase the amount of time required to serve for those going into the military since the cost of training requires that we have enough time to recoup that cost. The first barrier is that not everyone really wants to serve in a national service, so we need to work on the benefits. Every time we've gotten a pay increase, it usually works out that we lose that increase to taxes. We need to get rid of the discrimination! to 2 military members being married. We're called "double dippers" regardless of the fact both of us work and work hard. Now they're trying to take away some of the allowances regardless that both signed up for the military and deserve to have that allowance for both! There are numerous instances such as those that I've just cited. If you don't deal with that type of discrimination, it's going to be hard to entice people to join.</p>
3/1/18	<p>I believe there should be a draft, including women. As needed, having draftees on active duty helps the country understand "it is at war," not just "the military is at war." Captain Ralph Chappell, SC, USN (Ret.)</p>
3/1/18	<p>The US should have a non-deferrable (WW2 style) Draft that is triggered by the War Powers Act. If the US goes to War, then whatever additional personnel are needed are drafted randomly. This way ALL Americans share the burden. And those who declare war will do so knowing their children aren't immune.</p>
3/1/18	<p>Yes. I firmly believe that every young person (male or female) in America should serve two years in the service of their country, as do the Israelis. Whether in the military, or another public service agency such as USAID or another similar agency. When our young people see how other third world countries live, they may appreciate America and what they have here better. Military service builds character, commitment, strong values and appreciation for our country. Volunteer military service has eroded our enlistment because of equitable pay, erosion of "promised" benefits, health care, and continued deployments that adversely affect family life due to lower force structures. Richard J. Kadar, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)</p>

3/1/18	<p>Yes, the draft is a necessary component of U.S. national security. While the services have been successful in recruiting an all-volunteer force, future projections of qualified recruits look bleak. In 2030, for example, it is projected that 64% of recruits won't qualify to serve due to overweight/obesity issues alone. Yes, the selective service system needs to be adjusted to include women - one team, one fight! Barriers to serving in the military are both physical and mental. The military requires a unique level of commitment, dedication and sacrifice that is not common to national or public service. The inherent value in military service is tremendous. Individuals learn and live by core values, teamwork/camaraderie, and display leadership and management skills at all levels. I firmly believe in SECDEF's recent "deploy or get out" policy, therefore, its not feasible to require all Americans to serve in the military. However, I believe a mandatory! (public) service requirement for all Americans deserves further research. The U.S. can increase the propensity for Americans to serve by educating them about all the great opportunities. Make public service, or military service part of the discussion at high school and college orientation. I was fortunate enough to be from a "military family" so I was aware of the great opportunities growing up; however, many of my peers had no idea you could be a nurse, engineer or communications specialist in the military. There's a huge misperception that everyone in the military shoots people or blows things up which is simply not true. Additionally, the military needs to have a more flexible career path to increase the propensity to serve. For example, today's youth are very attracted to the "gig" economy. Therefore, let's develop a system that allows them to serve for 2-3 years, then go out to the civilian sector for 2-3 years before bouncing! back to the military again.</p>
3/1/18	<p>We should go to a two year national service (military, national and public service) requirement for everyone between the ages of 18 and 26. Change selective service to require everyone to register for a two yar national service requirement with no waivers except for 70% determined by Social Security Examination system. There is so much to gain from everyone serving their country for 2 years. They would accept diversity more readily, understand other cultures, learn what others less financially fortunate are enduring, etc.</p>
3/1/18	<p>After serving 30 years in the all volunteer military, I don't think a draft is necessary. However, if selective service or a draft is used, I don't think women should be included. It is fine for women to be allowed to participate in military specialties if they choose to do so. However, it is clear that men have greater physical strength and stamina in military combat situations. We need to protect our daughters and wives (I have six daughters) from forced conscription. We should provide opportunities for public service, but not make it mandatory for all.</p>
3/1/18	<p>Conscription, such as was initiated for Vietnam, was an extremely bad idea. Its most recent justification was when the axis powers declared war on the U.S.</p>
3/1/18	<p>Yes, the draft registration would ensure a correct contact information of the youth of America to provide a rapid calling of individuals for service to their country in the time of emergency. And, yes women should be required to register for the draft, as they are demanding equal treatment as the men. So they should not be allowed to defer their obligation because of their gender. Furthermore, I don't think it would be a bad idea if the U.S. had a Universal Service requirement like Israel has. Our youth should receive Basic Military training to learn leadership and discipline and then serve in either the Military, Peace Corps, Public Health, Park Service and others for a two year period of time. They would receive military pay, and be eligible for College Help as a part of that requirement. Our youth really, really need this to bolster patriotism, love of country and flag, and serving. Something like this would jolt them out of this downward turn our culture has taken.</p>

3/1/18	1. I believe a draft contingency is necessary. 2. Modifications are needed. There should be almost no exemptions or deferrals. Women should be required to register. 3. Increase incentives. For instance, lowering taxes and establishing favorable mortgage rates for those who serve. Executing publicity campaigns that emphasize the value of service and create genuine values from service. 4. Barriers to military service are lack of physical fitness and education. Barriers to other forms of national service or public service include lack of reward and recognition. 5. There is inherent value in service. Some of those inherent values are exposure to other cultures nationally and internationally, A sense of humility. Participation in a team. Experience with how governments and the military operate. 6. I do not believe a mandatory service requirement is necessary but I do believe it is preferable, valuable and feasible. 7. Propensity can be increased by making service an ultra honorable undertaking, something that future employers look for on resumes. Match a person's career desires and goals with a service opportunity.
3/1/18	Yes, military draft is still a necessary component of U.S. national security. Modifications to the selective service system is needed. Women must be included. The Second Amendment is a call for all citizens to be prepared to defend the U.S. Yes, mandatory service requirement for all Americans is necessary. It is service to the country that makes us a great country.
3/1/18	I think a mandatory service to Country could be an option. Two years of Military Service or two years of Civil Service doing something menial but necessary; park maintenance or low grade assistants at Federal buildings/projects, etc. This would provide experiences that could help them focus on things away from their neighborhoods and provide a certain level of discipline and responsibility. You're not born here to simply take from others, you are here to be a part of a better world.
3/1/18	1) yes 2) Yes - If there is a selective service women should be require to register. 3) Children should be educated to respect their country, realize that freedom comes with a responsibility, and be taught that each citizen must share in the defense of their country. 4) those who do serve may fall behind, both financially and career wise, to those who choose not to serve, when their service is done. 5) Yes. I value my time as a platoon leader in Vietnam as my real education. Collage gave me a skill set as an accountant, but the service gave me life skills in leadership and management that no school could ever provide. 6) Yes. It should be a requirement for all young adults to give of their time for the defense and betterment of their country. No citizen should be able to hold public office unless they understand first hand just what it takes to defend their country. If other countries can require this service so can we. 7) Educate all children to love and respect their country. Require that all schools teach American History starting in the early grades. Do not coddle the children with safe spaces, but rather teach them the realities of the world and that to those who much is given much is expected in return.
3/1/18	Make this a simple survey 1 to 10 each question.
3/1/18	Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? No, not since the Vietnam War. Are modifications to the selective service system needed? What kind of modifications are you talking about? You still require men to register, yet you do not require women to register. What kind of wartime force does that envision? How can the U.S. increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? By making the military service a viable career option, once again, through equitable pay and benefits, and offering college graduates the opportunity to enter as commissioned officers! What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? The non-competitive natures of military service, versus private, non-military employment Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? Of course it does, it has a patriotic component, for young people wanting to realize their dreams of service to their country! Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? Not necessary, only valuable during

	wartime, and not feasible unless we are at war. How does the U.S. increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? By increasing their opportunities to succeed, and find competitive employment with the private sector!
3/1/18	#1. Yes, definitively, a military draft should be a vital component of U.S. national security. #2. Include all the females. #3. Make the draft a principal source of manning for all the armed services, draft both females and males, use a lottery system with very tight rules for exclusion. #4. There should be no barriers. #5. Service to the Country makes the people involved more dedicated and patriotic. #6. Yes...it should be mandatory, it is valuable beyond doubt. It is feasible if the virtually worthless Congress and the President of the country signs enacts it into law. #7. Avoiding the draft should include a mandatory 10 year prison sentence. That will ensure propensity to serve the country.
3/1/18	I would like to address questions 1, 2, and most specifically 6. Although I do not believe rapid formalization of the draft for military service is required at the moment, I recommend a contingency plan for Selective Service be updated and put in place. Such plan must include all eligible citizens, both men and women, to be fair to all those eligible for selection and to those women and men serving now. I believe strongly that a mandatory service requirement for all young Americans at age 18 is valuable, feasible and necessary. Many of our young at 18 are not emotionally or educationally ready for either the full time workplace, in the trades or other skilled positions, nor for the expectations and costs of a two or four year college experience. And, as I see our common fabric of what it means to be an American increasingly diluted, I see a hopeful chance to bring our youth together to serve so many of our citizens, in true national service. I would propose an exchange of two years of national service for two years of fully-funded education at the community college level, accredited trade school, or the first two years of education at the university level. In return for four years of national service, an individual would receive four years of fully funded college or a full apprenticeship in a valuable trade, such as electrical or construction engineering. These years between 18 and 20, or 22, would be a valuable opportunity to learn about life and oneself while giving to the public good - in places such as nursing homes, schools, child care centers, the military, national and state parks - and better prepare the individuals to succeed with their then chosen career/education paths. With our increasing lifespans, there is not the urgency to graduate college at 22. People in this program may gain a greater understanding of themselves and their interests, contributing to a greater focus on their follow-on education. We are losing generations of youth every year to drug use, alcoholism, and a general sense of loss of purpose/identity. If we provided them a mandatory opportunity to gain a sense of purpose by giving rather than taking, by hope rather than hopelessness, we could develop superb generations of individuals. Feasibility: we have many military bases that have closed since the original BRAC rounds of the 80s and 90s, and there is excess military infrastructure capacity today - many installations exist but few are fully used. These are an excellent source of lodging and feeding for those participating in national service. I am sure other facilities are available. College enrollments are declining; dorms and cafeterias could be a source to house these individuals. Please recommend a minimum of one year national service for all youth at age 18 - no exemptions, no deferments, with the above suggested benefits for those who serve two years and beyond.

3/1/18	I am grateful that public service to my country was required of me. I was fortunate to live in Asia for almost ten years of my career. I really saw how lucky it was to be an American and represent this country. At the end of my service my skills in electronics opened civilian jobs to me. It also provided the chance to complete my college degree. I believe it made me a better citizen. Semper Fi
3/1/18	I am grateful that I live in a country which allows me to honor my convictions as a conscientious objector to war. From the fall of 1971 until the fall of 1973, I served alternative service as director of the Lernstube in Ludwigshafen, Germany, under the authority of the Protestant and Catholic social service agencies of West Germany. I helped ghetto children from many nationalities with their homework and learning social skills. It was a powerful experience of making a difference for good in the world and of representing the United States of America as a country interested in helping people rebuild their lives after needing to migrate from the Balkans or Turkey to Europe in order to obtain employment. Many of the children came from homes where a parent had been put in prison, and part of my work was to provide stability and encouragement for them to find a better way of life than they had experienced. All of this was possible because the United States government required a 1 term of service in lieu of serving in the military. It helped to form my character, gave me opportunity to help to form the character of others, and enabled me to be a part of making a good fingerprint on the world that people identified as help and goodwill from the United States of America. Please help each new generation learn how to provide care and protection for the world around us. Sincerely, James M. Beckwith, Lebanon, Pennsylvania, [REDACTED]
3/1/18	1.yes 2.yes 3.a proper cross-representation of the American public has not been present in the military since the 1973 decision. Accordingly, our most skilled or most educated along with disadvantaged inner city or poverty laden individuals are not wanted because it is felt by leaders in decision making positions that it is too difficult to salvage any element of this society for military service, as we did with the draft .Those that could be inducted and trained could return to the old neighborhoods as positive role models. 4.pay and too many deployments as well as prior service-educational requirements. 5. leadership training 6.only draft what is needed. cannot afford for everyone to serve or be drafted, Draft without any type of deferments for any circumstances. 7. opportunity to lead by example, educational benefits and pride in service. I strongly feel, and have felt, that the all-volunteer army is destined to fail unless we have representation or can recruit from! both the high and low ends of society.
3/1/18	The military draft is even more of a necessity than in previous years. Civilians pay lip service as in "thank you for your service" but they have no idea what it really means to serve. All youth, 18-20, should have obligatory service to their country either through military service or community service. Civilians need more education on the founding of our country and just what being an American entails. The liberals of our country have done an admirable job of brainwashing our youth and unless each individual learns first hand to respect our country and our diversity of ideas, the United States is doomed as a nation. As a female, I served 21 years as both enlisted and officer in the Air Force. I never realized how "good" we have it in the United States until I served my first overseas assignment. I was not in a third world country but the differences were still evident. Our nation was built on rights, not entitlements. Each individual should feel! I proud to be able to serve their country. There should be no loopholes in the mandatory draft. Everyone should serve.
3/1/18	My time in service to my country goes back to the natives of our land and my people are both African & Cherokee and all the way up to today. My Uncles Served in the USMC,US Army and Navy and Air Force my dad,my sister and my brother-n-laws and my sister-n-law served. I served. Most us were volunteers and my father got his parents permission to sign up before he was drafted. I volunteered. From my time in service both overseas and stateside. I like an all volunteer armed service.I don't want to serve with anyone that is drafted or forced to join the military they will probably 100% of the time not want to stay in the military,serve in the military and protect our nation that is why we don't have so many staying in the military or even choosing to serve. I joined because I wanted to serve my country and fight for my nation and with our allies. President Trump's wants to build a new and

	better and stronger military then do away with the so-called selective service and trying to draft people look with all due respect even President Trump dodged military service with all his deferments but I didn't and nether did my father or my relatives!!!
3/1/18	The problem with America's youth and young adults is they lack an appreciation of our country and the sacrifices made by many for the freedoms they enjoy. All young adults from age 18 to 21 must serve 2 years in the military in order to vote. No service no vote. By having all americans, boy and girl, they taught what is important to defend your country and to appreciate the sacrifices made by those in the military. Some will want to make a career and qualify for a scholarship in the areas needed to benefit them and our country. Other will leave honorably and become responsible adults. The thought that patriotism will provide the needed men and women to defend freedom in time of war falls on deaf ears today. Our education system promotes decent and ant-military ideals, especially in our universities. Mandatory service is the best answer to preserve our republic and ensure those that vote have a stake in governing our nation. Israel conscripts all men and women out of high school and the youth are expected and want to defend their country. Unless we have a similar system America is doomed when we have to depend on today's youth to serve honorably in time of war. Things are lot different than when I served in Vietnam. Today's youth have no idea of our national heritage and what the Constitution means to those who serve. Check what is taught in public schools and universities on US History, Government, constitutional and civil law. If a draft were instituted in time of war there will be some who serve honorably, but most will not because they do not believe in America as I did in the 1960's. Time to face facts America must change how we encourage good people to serve. The all volunteer force works in small numbers but when millions are needed recruiting will fail.
3/1/18	All citizens, should have to serve for at least two years in the military, national or public service. Serving in one of these capacities will benefit the nation and the citizen, for it will provide a service to the nation, keep military strength balanced, educate the person, instill discipline and hopefully a sense of Nationalism. The majority of the US population have no idea how or what the military mission is or how it functions. I also feel that military service should be mandatory for eligibiliity to run for the senate or congress. Many people do not appreciate this great country.
3/1/18	1. yes 2. yes --Universal draft--both males and females. 3. Universal draft. 4. ? Religious, mental or physical incapacity. 5. A universal draft brings ALL elements of society (educational , social , cultural, financial) for a brief period of time--18 months right out of high school? This allows positive memories/feedback in later life when discussing with colleagues those of markedly different backgrounds . This makes the country and stronger as we all then have a common purpose / understanding/ and definition of what it is to be an American. 6. See Above. No deferments would put all financial adults in a no deferment status when first out of high school. I've found that most children of 18 are not yet ready for the responsibilities of college or a responsible job then--especially boys. 7. A universal draft gives no alternative and becomes part of the culture--ie Israel. and accepted as such. Rev Dr.Terrance Robinson LTC MC USAR

3/1/18	<p>1. YES! There is no other way to respond to a large scale national crisis. 2. Yes, all citizens of both genders must be included. 3. Congress must stop kicking the can down the road when it comes to providing multi year budgets with certainty! 4. Many parents have a negative impression based on the ineptitude of congress and the unwillingness to come to grips with the fact that significant national resources must be devoted to national defense. The many years of combat operations and the fear parents have about sending their sons/daughters into harms way as over shadowed the pride that comes with having a family member serve. Both parties have been guilty of playing political football with the troops instead of uniting. We have not had a leader take the case for the need and benefits of national service directly to all the citizens. Don't need studies ... just leadership at the highest levels. This means the Commander in Chief and all members of congress. 5. Yes -- the pride and satisfaction of selfless service 6. A resounding yes. As indicated above this need must be articulated to the people in a very direct way starting at the very top. 7. Number one stop whittling away at their benefits and increase the size of the force dramatically to lessen the burden of repeated deployments. Have the guts to tell the public that they must share some of the burden and that this means some of their beloved "entitlements" may have to be eliminated or reduced to ensure national defense is truly treated as the nation's number one priority. When someone complains that their social security or similar benefit may be cut by a few percentage points remind them that the less than 1% who are serving are giving up blood, life and limb ... yep, look them in the eye and shame them for thinking only of themselves. Politicians of recent years haven't shown the guts to do this. We need far fewer politicians and many more statesmen!</p>
3/1/18	<p>Commission: I am opposed to draft registration. Though an "all volunteer" military does have a downside, I believe this approach should provide enough service members for legitimate defense of our country. The various military adventures that the U.S. has been involved in service to foreign-policy objectives should be abandoned, as creating much animosity towards our country by many persons and countries, and reflecting a period that is past, when there was a power vacuum amongst nations. Diplomacy isn't always effective, but involves much less expense and loss of life. As for mandatory public service, this seems counter to the spirit of self-determination prized in our democracy. Attractive voluntary programs (such as have been created during bad economic times) that provide some employment at modest income, but are promoted for patriotic reasons, could certainly be implemented. Thank you.</p>
3/2/18	<p>Response to questions: 1. Yes. Hopefully never needed. For more than just defense needs, including responses to national disasters, massive economic disruption, or possibly for education and formation. Male and female. 2. Don't know 3. Offer enough pay and benefits. It is a marketplace for skilled labor. 4. Lots of young people have other priorities in their lives. 5. Yes. Hopefully any job involves genuine service to the others, not just labor for a paycheck. The military needs to be, and be seen to be, a service to our neighbors at home and abroad. I like the idea of some sort of truly universal service, but expect it would be too expensive for our taxpayers. 6. See above 7. Honor service in all its form. Maybe find a way to challenge those who are not serving the community much, if at all. As far as military service, the recruiting ads I see look pretty good. One thing that might be made clearer is that military jobs are not all blood and thunder. Nor are they all for technical geniuses. There are varieties of service, as noted by St. Paul.</p>
3/2/18	<p>1. Draft is a necessary contingency plan 2. Selective service registration must include women now that women are viewed as fully equal and the same as men, in all aspects of military jobs. 3. Inspire patriotism, promote unity instead of division, voters remove long serving Congress folks, create a path for college for public service that allows those ineligible to serve in military other opportunities. 4. Barriers to serve are health issues, criminal record, negative view of serving government. Make opportunities available for those with health issues, create a path of redemption for those with minor nonviolent criminal records, especially the youth. 5. Service creates pride in what/who you serve. Want to fix inner city, creates way for kids to serve. It also builds esteem. 6. I do believe a national service requirement is valuable. It helps to give a kid options and allows them to mature before college. We do so many international humanitarian missions that non military required service can fill this void. 7. The US has a vital role in increasing national</p>

	<p>service. Congress has the ultimate power to do so, but they are too busy to fighting each other to care.If a national agenda to serve the nation and world was available, it would drastically help all. Imagine what could be done in Puerto Rico.</p>
3/2/18	<p>1. Yes. The need to register with the selective service is still needed in the event of a massive need for service personnel. With that said we do not need to restart the draft. 2. Yes. With women gaining a larger role in the military, including combat MOS's, women should have to register with the Selective Service. 5. Yes, I have always noticed a higher level of respect for the country from service personnel and veterans. 6. This topic would require a lengthy debate.</p>
3/2/18	<p>1. Not likely, but the surest way to need something in a hurry is to throw it away. However, the draft - evenly and fairly applied to all - would help close the gap between American society in general and those in the military by getting a more representative cross section of the nation. NB: the draft was blatantly NOT run this was in the Viet Nam era. 2. Yes. Everyone in the age range should be required to register. Boys, Girls, Both, Neither, None of The Above. If one can enlist, one should be subject to being drafted. 3. Money would help, but it cannot be the only tool, unless we want to contract our national defense to mercenaries. Flat out asking for such folks to join and appreciating them - and everyone else who signs up - goes a long way. Stop the politicians from talking a great game of appreciation and care for the troops and then, very hypocritically, cutting the benefits that help make life in the service tolerable. 4. For the military, Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan. Interminable live fire exercises are not a recruiting tool. With respect to the civilian side, lack of public awareness of the opportunities is a big part. 5. It does, but I fear that anyone who asks that question would not understand any answer. It's something that has to be instilled in the home, the school and the church but it also has to first be built in at the factory. 6. Yes, In Robert Heinlein's book, Starship Troopers, citizenship was granted only after completing a period of government service. Everyone could serve somewhere, somehow, regardless of any physical or mental issues, It was not mandatory, but one could never vote if one didn't complete the period of service. The underlying premise is that until one put some personal equity into the nation, he/she was not entitled to a say in how it was run. 7. Get us out of the permanent wars on the other side of the world. Americans have no patience for "forever wars". Get it, destroy the enemy, get out or don't go in at all. Desert Storm was the prototype of this. Stop using the military as a police force or an enforcer of regime change or, frankly, to impose our idea of democracy on a country that does not want it. Doing so wastes our time, treasure and. most importantly, blood and annoys the locals to the point of spilling that blood.</p>
3/2/18	<p>Q #1 - Yes the "draft" is necessary - it's in the U.S. Constitution' s Second Amendment. How else can we have a "well regulated malitia" if the able-bodied population isn't registered, evaluated and trained?</p>
3/2/18	<p>1. Yes. We need U.S. citizens to be ready (physically and trained) to defend the U.S. and be ready to act as first responders in emergencies. 2. Yes. All U.S. citizens of required age should be eligible. 3. Using a draft that trains citizens and gets them in physical shape to handle the responsibilities and to participate and learn from others throughout the country - a great melting pot - that would help people learn about each other and provide shared values. 4. Apathy and lack of knowledge about the importance of a "melting pot." 5. Learning about others throughout the country. Learning to appreciate their values and to share common values. 6. Necessary to reinforce U.S. ideals and to provide a widely dispersed qualified first responder</p>

	force. It will serve as the melting pot that the draft did in the past. 7. Unfortunately, by making it a requirement to provide service - military or civilian - make a commitment to improving themselves while improving their country. 7.
3/2/18	A military draft IS a necessary component of our national security. By all physically qualified men serving a year or so and being properly trained, it will be easy to recall them in case of national emergency and require minimal time to have them combat ready. All men should be required to register at age 18. Re-institute proficiency pay similar to the way it was done in the 1960's to increase the willingness of men with critical skills to serve. Offer training in these skills to those who possess high aptitude scores in critical areas. Aptitude and attitude are often more important than a piece of paper that says someone has graduated from college! We now prohibit men who are overweight or who have a criminal record from serving. This a huge mistake. Any DI/drill sergeant can take care of overweight problems given authority and a little time. Men with a record of minor crimes can be disciplined into good troops if trained by a competent DI/drill sergeant who has authority to change the troops' behavior and priorities. It was done 50 years ago regularly, was considered routine. Troops start with a clean sheet, the past is gone, we go from here and achieve success! Military service has inherent value, it teaches self-reliance, discipline, personal responsibility and pride in our work. Troops look good and stand tall! Mandatory service is necessary to bring all young men to the same level, the baker and the banker live, eat, and work together without regard to background. Troops work with people they have never seen or conversed with before, are exposed to a diversity of ideas and values. They learn what America is all about, not just the neighborhood where they grew up. Propensity to serve comes from a sense of pride and obligation to make our country better. This starts at home, and especially in our schools. JROTC programs need to be expanded, especially in smaller schools. Civics courses should be required for graduation from high school and include guest speakers who are elected government officials. Take care of our soldiers AND their families with first class medical and dental care. These troops are your best recruiters as they go back home and tell the folks how they are being treated. Defending our country isn't cheap, it can't be done that way successfully. Our citizens need to understand that and realize that our freedoms are NOT free!
3/2/18	There are not enough physically fit youth in this country to meet our military staffing needs and it is getting worse. Mandatory government service should be required, including a draft to meet our needs and to instill in our youth a sense of sacrifice.
3/2/18	Yes, bring back a mandatory Draft for people (KIDS!!) who are not attending a higher education institution after high school=accredited college for at least 2 years or trade school so they "learn" discipline, respect for law/order/authorities. Yes, this would increase the military budget BUT compared to the cost to support wayward people who become criminals (i.e., cost of significant law enforcement to maintain peace, seek out/arrest drug traffickers/users; court costs to prosecute criminals; jail/prison costs; investigate homicides, etc. BILLIONS of \$\$\$).....all that would probably be reduced IF a military training was imposed.
3/2/18	During the Vietnam era I had a AIT training company and noticed the best trainees were draftees. The best PT , rifle range scores and test exams were with draftees. They were a cross section representation of all Americans. Draftees had a life to go back to, while the volunteers were looking for a life or trying to get away from a bad situation. Additionally as a Company Commander in the late 60's I had no problems with draftees. I think a mandatory federal service (not just military) would be beneficial for the growth and security on the United States. I would suggest both men and women between 18 and 21 for 18 to 24 months

3/2/18	Preface- Even in face of dire threats to National Security, there is no political will to face up to any of these issues 1. Yes- When war hits the fan (likely simultaneous wars) and we are as unprepared and undermanned as bad as 1941, you will not have a choice but to implement an immediate draft under the existing inadequate and fault-ridden laws 2. Yes- multiple reforms....add women.....eliminate special interest exemptions....some version of universal service with safeguards against abuse...many more ... all politically toxic 3. heavy handed enforcement of ROTC on all campuses desired by DOD....of recruiter access to high school and college student bodies....loss of accreditation and funding for obstruction and for political activity parading as accredited classwork 4. toxic media....toxic academia...hostile political activity supported by accreditation and public funding 5. read history to find answer....not many people do that or teach that now. We have a culture that distains lessons of history and does not understand why civilizations collapse 6. yes...maybe a few exemptions but not many.. 7. Enforce laws and policy for recruiter access on campus and in high schools....counter the hostile media culture with an effective info ops supporting public service including military....none of this is done now... no political will.
3/2/18	Way to many people in this country feel that the US owes them a living simply because they exist. Military service would instill discipline in these unruly children and maybe help them to grow up and become responsible adults.
3/2/18	Question 1 - YES Question 2- Exclude females from any draft, and from combat missions Question 3 - All able body, mental fit males 18 to 25 serve 2 years in the armed services or some type of public service Question 4- Our pitiful "dumb it down" education system Question 5- It teaches responsibility, and life skills Question 6-YES Question 7-One only has to look at the Greatest Generation that served in WWII for an answer
3/2/18	There should be some form of compulsory public service - young people must learn that freedom isn't free and that they should contribute more than just working , voting, obeying the laws, paying taxes. In other words they must understand that responsible adults contribute to the general welfare of the country.
3/2/18	Everyone should serve. A shared understanding of sacrifice and service is vital to a healthy democracy.
3/2/18	Rather than a draft there should be some level of national service requirement. A wide program of service throughout the government would provide skill training, awareness of what the government does, and increase national pride. Military service would be a component of any such program. Broad service would provide a means for all to participate, not just those in good physical shape. If the rich really don't want to participate allow them a high price buyout to help support the program.
3/2/18	1. A military draft is necessary for national security. There is no other mechanism that could produce a large increase in service members if necessary. The burden of operating the system isn't heavy, but enforcement should be stronger. 2. Modifications are necessary, particularly as it regards gender. Given that there is no restriction on how female members are used in the military, there is no reason not to require women to register for the draft. 3. The military could do a better job of identifying the opportunities for people with special needed skills. Local recruiting offices aren't that vehicle. Recruiting should come from "homes" of the needed specialty and bonuses should be offered as incentives. 4. The principle barrier I see is the perception that serving is a lesser career than other opportunities on the private sector. For the military it is also the personal risk potential. More promotion of the excellence of those serving or having served would go a long way towards overcoming that barrier. 5. Service, in its purest form, has immense personal value. Serving one's country, serving society, making the world a better place can be inculcated as important; much more so than just a job. I've often stated to others that military service means just that; serving the nation and its people. It can and should be viewed as a higher calling. As the Army slogan once said, "it's not a job; it's an adventure." But it is more than a personal adventure; if seen through the proper lens it is rewarding experience of being part of a much larger life. 6. Mandatory service should be required of all Americans, or at least registration for same. Should there be a need for people in government at any level with a particular skill set, they should be "draftable". It is quite impractical to think of mandating such

	<p>service from everyone, but at least they should be "callable". 7. There should be a much more effective public information campaign that outlines the benefits. Too often military service is viewed as a path for those that are not at a high level to do other things. One hears of Harvard graduates entering the USMC with astonishment. I've spoken at commissioning ceremonies and reminded the audience that the newly minted Lieutenant will have more responsibility in their first job as a platoon leader than most people have at the epitome of their professional accomplishment. The career paths of personal responsibility are incredible at every level. The educational opportunities are superb. Our military today is filled with such bright and capable young men and women the average American would be very hard pressed to comprehend or compete. That message needs to get out there.</p>
3/2/18	<p>1. Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? Yes 2. Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Yes 3. How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? Remove ADHD, ADD, Dyslexia from disqualifying factor, where a candidate evidences success by college graduation, skill or trade acquisition and verifiable resume, history of strong school & work attendance, and, work ethic. 4. What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? Belief that military, national, or public service does not want me due analysis at the lowest level by instrumentalities and no further application of assessment tools or judgement. 5. Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? Yes. Life without service to our fellows would be the sentence a castaway person, marooned on an island alone, serves. Many young people are marooned and seek to serve; often they apply or enlist in negative, counter or illegal organizations in an effort to escape their desolate isle. 6. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? Necessary: Yes. Timeless values: citizenship, patriotism, love of country, commitment to our neighbor and our progeny's futures cannot be inherited or gifted; They are earned through duty, service, and honor. Valuable: Yes, immeasurably so; even as one looks back at a line of nations strewn on history's ash heap, this author proposes one cause is a loss of value and honor for work and service and the dignity of work done well. Feasible: Yes; limited by our bureaucracy of thought, we allow predatory lending practices to enslave our young people in their mistaken belief that student loan usury leads to the American dream in a play now and pay forever. Reverse this thinking to serve now, learn while serving and seek lifelong service publicly and privately to our fellows. We must create opportunities, Good Citizen Bills, similar to GI Bills that will allow young people to serve in entry positions of service, while earning and depositing credit for later use in trades, vocational schools, academies, colleges, universities, and skills training in crafts, health, safety, security, productivity. 7. How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? Let them know that we need and value them: yesterday, today and tomorrow. As they understand that America gives much to all and to those that are given much, much is expected. Let all Americans ask ourselves, "How and where will we, will I, serve today as a citizen of this Nation, unique in our hopes and unmatched in our liberty, and unequalled in our united potential throughout history?"</p>

3/2/18	Need the draft, it gives an American skin in the game. They will feel it is important to vote and participate in elections, since they have been on the receiving end of the political process. In the olden days, young offenders were given the choice of jail or military. Most of those who went into the military were very good recruits, just needed leadership, and a purpose. We are seeing the differences now in Congress, with so few who have served being more militaristic and not understanding the horrific toll of combat on the services. PTSD was considered a weakness, hospitals not kept to the top standards, etc. If members of congress had served, or members of their family, children, wife, brothers, sisters, they would be more realistic about defense and keeping the USA in the forefront of cyberspace, new technologies, and the realities of physical confrontations.
3/2/18	WITH REGARD TO #6: While I realize a large % of our population cannot qualify for military service due to health or moral reasons, the Israelis apparently have made a mandatory service system work for them (AND I BELIEVE WE SHOULD INVESTIGATE - WITH THEM -JUST HOW THEY CAN DO IT). While they do it because they DESPERATELY NEED to have a citizenry that can rapidly arm themselves and serve at a moments notice, I feel we NEED TO EDUCATE our citizens about things like: do NOT throw trash around for others to pick up, etc - in essence teach them things that their parents HAVE FAILED TO DO ! I KNOW that boot camp in 1955 left a LASTING impression on me, and I was raised in a family that did NOT tolerate laziness or a general disregard for the rights of others (THAT IS NOT THE CASE TODAY WITH FAMILIES TODAY & IS A LARGE PART OF OUR SOCIETY'S PROBLEMS ! I THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE MY PENNIES WORTH !)
3/2/18	I think a Universal Draft for all Kids of 18 should be created, NOT just for the Military, but also for the Forest Service, Public Health, Border Patrol, Peace Corps, National Park Service and other federal programs. All Americans serve, although they may not get their choice in where they serve. The period of Service is three years, pay is minimal (~ \$600/Mo), but additional funds (say ~ \$250-300) are diverted to a college/trade school account. Housing, Food and Uniforms are provided. Those entering the Military are paid the current going rate (as if they had enlisted) and earn benefits accordingly. The Military may require an additional year of service due to training costs. The Military currently has a 4% matching set up for retirement, a similar account could be used for college. At 21 or 22 those so inclined can attend college, or may choose a trade. Everyone still has a 6 or 7 year reserve commitment remaining. Those unwilling or unable to serve in some capacity may not hold public office. This will require careful screening and adjustments for those who are handicapped. All healthy youngsters will be given basic firearms training For safeties sake and additional training as needed for Jobs like Border Patrol, where it may be needed. This is VERY broad brush, but the concept is clear. Other nations do similar things. This IS NOT a way to get congressional aides or positions of privilege. This is a basic level "everyone contributes" to the basic needs of our country.
3/2/18	I was the project scientist at the Fort Benning Infantry Human Research Unit who was responsible for our Modern Volunteer Army research program, Project VOLAR, conducted in 1970 to 1972. I encourage you to review Fort Benning's Project VOLAR findings as many remain valid today. Unit cohesion, a sense of belonging, a sense of purpose, minimization of non-relevant and irritating regulations, a sense that family is cared for during deployments, educational benefits, compensation that is competitive with that in the private sector, quality health and dental care all contribute to re-enlistments and retention. We estimated that so long as unemployment was in the 4.5% range, the Army could effectively recruit for its needs. Clearly, competing opportunities are an important factor. Before reinitiating conscription, it would be desirable to offer training and education programs as well as other incentives in return for service (e.g., ROTC, doctoral training). Some percentage of those attracted thought this approach will remain. Those who leave will generally be expected to have had a positive experience. Anyone who served during and after the Vietnam era will recognize that the Army was much improved after conscription ended. Good order and discipline are essential and are much easier to demand of personnel who volunteer for service.

3/2/18	I believe that service to America by either military, Peace Corps, or domestic national service in a similar capacity should be mandatory for at least 4 years, and that such service should have to be honorably completed for that individual to be granted 'full citizenship' and thus the right to vote. Anyone who does NOT fulfill this requirement can still be a 'legal resident', but cannot vote at any level.
3/2/18	1. I do not believe a draft is necessary at the current time. 2. Yes, modifications are needed. Perhaps it should be composed of options for service of at least 12 months in length. Options could include military service, a church/religious service, local/domestic or International service organizations, etc. Every American (male and female) should serve a minimum of 12 months in some way between 18 and 24 years of age. 3. A year of mandatory "service" would increase participation in many areas. It would help ground our youth by exposing them to new environments and people (race, religions, cultures, language, etc.), help them to expand their perspective beyond "themselves", and lift our society as well as other countries. International experience may help us understand and be more accepting of "different" ways of life and of living. 4. Most youth are inherently immature - due to limited life experiences. I believe the biggest barrier is a willingness to look beyond yourself and the fortitude to get out and get involved in something else. There needs to be an expectation to do so. A democratic society will not be healthy if all people are inwardly focused. Requiring a year of service may be a fundamental change for good in all of our lives. 5. I strongly believe that service has and brings inherent value. Helping lift someone else up changes you. Learning about people who are different from you expands you. Truly serving others increases your understanding, acceptance and love/respect of others. 6. Yes - necessary, valuable and feasible. Some much good could be done if we established at an early age the desire and willingness to include and serve others. 7. I believe all democratic based governance increases the awareness and desire to work together. Sadly, we often don't value that as much until we mature. Requiring meaningful service early in life may kick-start and enhance that maturation process.
3/2/18	I believe the important question is whether citizens of the United States should have a requirement for service to their country. I do not believe that it necessarily has to be in the military. As a former enlisted member/now retired Naval Officer, I had the pleasure of serving with many fine individuals. I also had the displeasure of serving with individuals who had no business being in a regimented environment like the military. Not everyone is cut out to be a soldier, sailor, Marine or airman. I have also had the opportunity to spend a fair amount of time inside the educational settings of local community middle and high schools as a substitute teacher and paraprofessional. I strongly believe that the mindset of the youth that I encountered was more focused on the benefits of society than how those benefits are earned. In that vein, I believe a mandatory service program is needed be it an option for military, community, Peace Corps, Americorps VISTA or some other/similar function. The primary goal should be building citizen responsibilities and community service. We have a Bill of Rights...unfortunately, our founding fathers could not perceive the smartphone generation...if they had, perhaps we would have a Bill of Responsibilities as well. Should there be a CONTINGENCY DRAFT...YES Should the Selective Service System be MODIFIED...YES..to accommodate a new nationwide approach to citizen engagement. How can we increase PARTICIPATION?...By making service to our collective community a requirement. Leverage student loans, job training and any other assistance program as the catalyst. There is no such thing as a free ride. BARRIERS to participation?...the overwhelming mindset of entitlement that permeates our present-day society... "it's not my job". Inherent value?...ABSOLUTELY!...there is nothing like serving outside the continental USA to open a set of eyes as to just how good we have it being citizens of the USA...AND, how totally ignorant we are with regard to the customs and beliefs of the rest of the world. To borrow the thoughts of Samuel Clemons.. "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime." MANDATORY SERVICE...YES...in one capacity or another. There will always be exceptions due to health, physical disabilities, etc. but even those situations can contribute in other ways. INCREASE THE PROPENSITY TO SERVE...start with educational programs that instill a sense of duty and responsibility in the schools, reward service with

	<p>the appropriate level of benefits...e.g., a GI Education Bill for non GI's...and, I hate to say it, BUT stop sending American youth into the middle of civil and religious wars that have little, if anything, to do with our National Security.</p>
3/2/18	<p>Yes, the draft should be implemented. An based on recent changes that draft should apply equally to both males and females. If a waiver is granted for college, then the individual receiving the waiver should be drafted into the military directly after completing college. Another words equal treatment for all. Money and political influence and position etc. should not allow for different treatment of individuals . Should have mandatory service for all with medical exceptions. The individual needs to meet the needs and requirements of the service and not the service meeting the needs of the individual. Like is was suppose to be many many years ago. Freedom is not Free. However, in the United States it appears to have become free to 98 % of the population. What does the draft do for us. It does many things in my opinion - in addition to lowering the over all cost of the military and provide a ready reserve force that is basically already trained to defend the nation. Although! h more difficult for the military than a volunteer force, I believe it strengthens the county over all. If done correctly and applied equally to all - it beings individuals, from all walks of life, economic levels, education levels, backgrounds (i.e. college grad, high school grad, farm kid, city kid, small town kid, white kid, black kid, Hispanic kid, the surfer, the skier, the jock, the geek etc) into one place for a period time working together in a common endeavor. This coming together for the short period of time they take with them for the rest of their lives. It brings pride in themselves, their country, in each other. If you will, is forces people from completely different backgrounds, beliefs etc to work together for a common good, and while doing that developing an appreciation and respect for others, which they would never be exposed otherwise. Implementing the draft would not be easily, most of the country no longer believe they have to serve, and that it is someone else's job - that the freedom in this country is free and an entitlement.</p>

3/2/18	<p>1. Is a military draft or draft contingency still necessary? YES 2. Are Modifications to the SS system needed? Yes to add flexibility in service. 3. How Increase participation in military & national service by those with critical skills? Start a RAM-T (Rapid Auxiliary Military - Technical Forces) office/category of voluntary & non-voluntary technical people (cyber experts, scientists, pilots, Film & TV experts, language experts, etc.). They are technical Non-combatants who can serve during peace or war when called (CONUS Service Only). Two categories: (1) Voluntary Forces who agree to serve with pay if called for specific periods (3, 6, 12, 24, or 36 months or "as needed") to which they agree to in advance. No basic military training or military rank - only brief orientation training. They Can volunteer for overseas service but not direct combat. (2) Drafted RAM-T Forces with military rank and training (last to be called). Then you have the regular All Volunteer Military (AVM) Core Force, and then add the Drafted Military Forces that Supplement the Core AVM Forces -- either combatant or! non-combatant. They would be called to active duty after the Reserve, National Guard, and Voluntary RAM-T Forces in priority. 4. Barriers to participate in military or National Service? Most people are simply not personally asked! Technical people need special recruiting -- and not military recruiting, and it must be personal. There is no organized, centralized plan/campaign for recruiting people to national services -- it requires critical thinking and motivation. I served many years as a recruiter -- I know the issues. 5. Does service have value? Yes - it contributes to our national needs, it provides those who serve with a mission, heightened self-esteem, and being part of a team. It provides a sense of self-satisfaction -- people like to get things done & contribute to society. 6. Mandatory service for all? I am split on this 50-50. I have been in the draft and AVM, and the AVM was much better -- who wants people forced to be there and all the problems that brings? On the other hand, I think ALL should serve in some capacity if able -- not necessarily in the military or as combatants. I recommended a way to bring in non-combatants. 7. How motivate people to serve? ASK THEM! Tell them why it is important. Educate them. It took me 10 minutes to convince two small civilian non-defense companies to voluntarily help with a critical technical military battlefield problem at no cost to the government. Involve the public! Freedom is not a free ride!</p>
3/2/18	<p>I believe there is a need for a universal mandatory service requirement for all Americans. It may be military service or some other form of public service at the working level; fire department, law enforcement, medical, caring for the elderly or children. Other options would be community service such as public works, helping the homeless, etc. All of the choices available would have to be for work within the organizational structure of a governmental or recognized entity. Only those incapable of performing any contributory work would be excused. Except as stated above this service should provide for no exceptions or deferments, requiring full-time employment. Education could be pursued by the individual on their own time with perhaps some government support as is the case for military members now. I served in the U.S. Army from 1959 to 1980. I saw the draft at it's best and at it's worst. Pre-Vietnam was the best and Vietnam started the worst. Prior to Vietnam, we were predominately drafting men with and without college degrees in the 22 to 25 year old range. The local draft boards essentially seem to give everyone a chance to get thru college (or just hang out on the corner.) As a result, the draftees of that time frame were mature, accepted the fact that they had to serve two years, and performed their duties well (even Elvis.) Another factor was that relatively few married men were drafted, although some did. Ironically, Regular Army enlistees were not accepted if they were married. After the start of the Vietnam draft system, we got a large number of immature, somewhat inattentive inductees. They performed remarkably in spite of their age and attitudes. They also got killed because of that immaturity and inability to retain their training when they first got in-country. We were drafting kids right out of high school and passing over the more mature candidates because of student deferments and the influence of well placed parents. With regard to the military, a major cost consists of pay and benefits, to include dependents care and housing. When I first went into the army you had to be at least in the grade of E-4 with 4 four years service to be authorized allowances for families. Before I retired it had become a practice for privates to marry each other, live together or with someone else, and draw allowances for families. A lot of this was to simply be allowed to live off-post. Of course, you had the case of high school sweethearts getting married, and her pregnant, before he went off to war. I'm sure that is still the case</p>

	<p>today. These cases add to the stress and family problems due to the immaturity and multiple deployments of these kids. Today the service member may be female. Again, the cost of personnel goes up for family support.</p>
3/2/18	<p>1. ALL males who reach the age of 18 or graduate from High School MUST serve 3 years active duty. NO women will be drafted but they can join if they wish and have been in college. The Draft is a key component of our Republic (and, BTW, we are NOT a democracy as was said by one of the Commission people) and provides the needed man power that is currently missing. It will also provide young men to learn patriotism, gain confidence, learn discipline and get them away from the environment that draws them into crime and drugs. 2. All males should serve unless they have a physical/mental issue that is confirmed and prevents them from service. Then they spend the 3 years in learning other skills. 3. STOP listening to politicians who have NO clue what the military is even about. Get the PC crowd out of the senior ranks! Our men CAN be taught what our nation needs; we did it in the past and CAN do so again! IF we STOP listening to those who do NOT understand the need for the military and have never served and NEVER wanted to. 4. The only barriers are physical and mental issues that are VERIFIED! 5. OF course it is VALUABLE!! if our men had not come forth and served, we would not have a country. And they have done it more than once, too. Patriotism, discipline, honor, integrity, Love of country. 6. Yes it is! Other nations draft their youth. We should, too. 7. Make it the LAW and without service, they receive NO government assistance period! I have watched men literally turn their lives around because of military service. If there are leaders who do not know this or understand it, then THEY should NOT be making decisions regarding the Draft!</p>

3/2/18	A draft contingency is still necessary. If you can vote to send people to war, there should be a real threat that you too may have to participate. - Women should have to sign up for selective service as well (see comment above); consideration should be made in the event of a draft for child care/one person serving per household. - Barriers to service retention: ops tempo is too high and not distributed equally amongst the force. AEF cycles help, but don't look at the impact on individuals. (For example I deployed 10 times in 7 years and my husband deployed 11... after serving a year long remote tour in Korea) There should be a guaranteed cool off period at the 4 year mark. Sabbaticals may be a good option if staff tours are not available. Uncertainty regarding funding, future pay, and healthcare also make members wary of remaining. CDC support for operators who work 24/7 is insufficient and prevents people from having a family life, thus promoting early separation. - Service has an inherent value of protecting and giving to US citizens (not only in combat and rescue operations, but it also provides the population with service members who have honed their character, team, and leadership skills). - The willingness to serve should not be taken for granted or abused. Combat should not be the immediate solution to problems- adequate funding and political support for State Dept, USAID, and other soft powers need to be increased to ensure military force is used judiciously. - Mandatory service for all Americans is not feasible due to economic structure and the vast size of the nation. Rural communities would have very different needs compared to cities. - Young people will be encouraged to join if you treat your current members well. Word gets around. There must be a realistic opportunity to have a career and promotion. Since military service removes members from normal career paths, they will only be willing to join and remain if they have confidence that the contract they sign up with will be honored later in life. Ad campaigns highlighting the skills service members gain might also help recruitment. - Opening recruitment and ROTC programs up to active duty personnel would help give service members a needed cool down and expose young people to people who are actually doing the fighting and who can honestly represent the pulse of the service. These roles are currently filled by reservists and guard members. Though they bring their own insights, they are not usually the ones who need to cool off.
3/2/18	The draft is still a vital component of U.S. national security. A mandatory period of service, (1-3 years), would provide young citizens an opportunity to "meld with" others of different cultural, ethnic, and economic strata. Something that seems to be missing with today's self-centered reliance on so-called "social media". However, one concern would seem to be the question of, "Do we have enough current, active duty available to even form basic and advanced individual training cadre?"
3/2/18	I firmly believe that all Americans should serve their country for a minimum of two years following high school, or, if attending college, following the college experience! No exceptions! For conscientious objectors, service in a VA Facility. Again, no exceptions! We have too many young people with no anchor to our society nor an understanding of their place in it. Some wander aimlessly, looking for an "out", and wind up on drugs. Military service instills discipline, self respect, and an ability to recognize and respond to events not of "our" making, an ability desperately lacking in our youth today. They need direction, and the military services can provide this necessary foundation! I have no doubt that we would rise again as a nation dedicated to freedom and democracy should the draft be reinstated! I support it.
3/3/18	1 No 2 Yes 3 Stop cutting benefits, add back lost incentives, eliminate queep 4 ROI, increased investment (time, ops tempo, BS additional duty and training) vs reduced benefit (TRICARE reductions, loss of retirement plan at 20 years, no support services like Aero Clubs, Auto hobby shops, etc). 5 No 6 No 7 See answer 3
3/3/18	1. The military draft is necessary to ensure that all Americans "have a little skin in the game"! 2. Yes! No deferments - provide alternative options! 3. With no deferments, everyone will serve in some capacity and you'll have the skills available! 4. Many, but Israel does it pretty well! 5. Absolutely! It brings us together by sharing the hardship of serving something bigger than ourselves. 6. Yes; Yes; and Yes! 7. Make it the law!

3/3/18	I am a supporter of universal military and/or para-military service for both men and women, if they are physically and mentally capable of performing requisite duties. Therefore I support universal registration for potential military or para-military induction. Service should begin after completion of high school or successfully passing GED requirements. Such service should be introduced through curriculum modifications during schooling grades one through twelve. The value of public and/or military service is to promote a better understanding of civic and personal responsibility for all citizens. The costs involved to incorporate such training would pay huge dividends to both the individual and the nation.
3/3/18	Tie public service internships directly to college tuition. A non-military version of the GI bill. Kids get exposure to the government systems and the government workers get exposure to fresh ideas and help that is so desperately needed in some of our offices. The longer the internship commitment the more money towards tuition. Each American citizen needs to have a stake in our country's mission. When it comes to national security and natural disasters some of the basic skills could be learned while interning and depending on which degree program you wanted to study you could serve in a local or state department geared towards that degree. The military does teach respect and allegiance pretty well, however, I don't agree that everyone is made out for military service or everyone should be forced to serve. For the record, I come from a long line of veterans dating back to WWII that represent all branches we've served in to include women. (mom, sister, and myself)
3/3/18	1. The draft has strong value to the country and individual. 2. Some modifications are needed to the selective service. 4. Many can't qualify for service, today, with the current weak standards. 5 & 6. Most people at age 18 don't know what they want to do. The military is a learning experience that benefits them no matter what happens in their future. It lays a foundation for better citizenship; it gives them a chance to mature and make better choices for their future. Most members in the Senate and House of Representatives never served in the military. This a great disadvantage for them and our country.
3/3/18	I believe if we are to have a "unisex military" (which I believe is a bad idea Women and men are, after all different, with different makeup and capabilities. Women should serve in non-combat positions.), women should be required to register for the draft.
3/3/18	A Military experience makes your whole future better!!!!
3/3/18	I am writing this comment in response to question 7, which asks: How can the U.S. increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? An effective, inexpensive, and easy policy is one that can be easily integrated into a preexisting system. That being said, there exists a system which most college-attending young people, and an increasing amount of high school seniors, engage in annually. I am referring to the free application for federal student aid (FAFSA). Given that a large portion of the benefits of military, national, and public service are educational benefits (free credits for online courses, tuition reimbursement, and service-specific scholarship programs), and given that students fill the FAFSA out in order to seek educational financial aid, it stands to reason that we should include information into those military, national, and public service benefits within the FAFSA. By implementing this slight change to a preexisting system, we can reduce the costs associated with a major outreach program for those programs. I can only speak to my own experience, -- I was fortunate enough to complete my Bachelor's and Master's degrees from The George Washington University and now am serving a year as a Philadelphia AmeriCorps VISTA as a way to give to my community -- however, I had no idea about the financial benefits of a year of service prior to the decision to actually serve. One large benefit is that many private universities (such as GW, where I attended) offer to match the amount of the educational grant for service and military members. This means that my \$5,800 VISTA education grant would have yielded me a nearly \$12,000 tuition break from my university. This educational benefit makes the program infinitely more appealing to students. I also had no idea that I could serve a VISTA year while taking classes in school. Had I truly understood the power and flexibility of the program, I would have certainly served as a VISTA concurrent with my studies (full or part-time) while I was either an undergraduate or graduate student. While I

	<p>am unfamiliar with the costs associated with modifying the FAFSA, I imagine they are marginal when compared to potentially reaching hundreds of thousands of qualified, passionate, and young Americans who otherwise have no real idea of the benefits and flexibility of service. Thank you for taking the time to review my comment, I hope you take this simple idea into consideration and continue to engage young Americans in service to our great nation.</p>
3/3/18	<p>There should be mandatory service for all. Those not qualified for the draft should still go through a form of basic training and then assigned to serve in various jobs beneficial to our National Interests. We have gone too long with 1% of the population bearing the load of National defense. We need more folks with "skin in the game" so that congress will make better decisions.</p>
3/3/18	<p>1. Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? I think that U.S. national security is more than physical protection. U.S. national security is a component of national pride, adequate military readiness and generally functioning as a team. Therefore, I believe that a military draft or draft contingency should be required but in a form comprised of required service choices. 2. Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Yes, I believe that women should also be required to register at 18 years of age. 3. How can the U.S. increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? I think that this can only be achieved by a mandatory service requirement. 4. What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? The biggest barrier to participation in military, national, or public service is the "general" lack of commitment by youth which can only be turned around by mandatory service to our nation. 5. Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? The most inherent value to service is the exposure of all to the diverse segments of our nation. This includes race, economic, and political barriers. By exposing our youth to these diverse segments there is potential to create an opportunity for better understanding. 6. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? Yes, mandatory service requirement is necessary and valuable as I have noted above. However, it is feasible only if our Congress can work together to make it law. In addition, if lawmakers have children who are participants in this mandatory service, it should make their decisions concerning war and other conflicts more personal. In other words, if they have skin in the game, they will think harder about their decisions. 7. How does the U.S. increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? I think that the only way to make this happen is to make service mandatory. Generally attitudes will change over time. Some attitudes will never change so don't expect total approval.</p>

3/3/18	<p>I believe every able man and woman should serve the United States in some manner for a period of two years to begin before their 28th birthday. Military service is only one avenue for service to great nation. Public service could include federal, state and local government, police officers, firemen (and women), and any of the services that government provides. Social Workers, health workers, and other fields serve in local governments. Having this requirement would serve as a great base for the start of following civil careers, provide staff in numbers and intellect to meet the needs of our communities across the United States. Does service have inherent value? Yes, yes it does. It is an experience that started my (and many others I have known) young not well directed life on a track to not only be a better person, but to have and live a meaningful life, a life of service. To understand the commitment and service of those before me that enabled me to have the freedoms we all enjoy today. I enlisted at age 17 and served in the USAF for over 24 years and, then went on to serve in County government leveraging all that experience and training to serve the local community. I also could have left the AF or local government service many times over the years to enter the private sector and would have done so with training and expertise that I obtained through my service.</p>
3/3/18	<p>1. We live in turbulent times that require a military force adequate to meet all threats. Young people today do not share the same feelings of patriotic service obligation as did those of 'the greatest generation'. That deficit must be filled through conscription. 2. Yes, all qualified persons should register for the draft, both male and female. 3. Short term motivators are skill training, GI Bill Education, In-service education, monetary stimuli, travel & adventure opportunities. 4. Strongest barrier is fear of loss of life in combat. Unwilling to accept obligation to defend the freedoms we enjoy. 5. Military service teaches discipline, regimentation, cooperation, and learning to work as a team. 6. Mandatory service is necessary to satisfy an inherent obligation to serve our nation through military service, civic/domestic service, or Peace Corps like service. It will instill pride and increase one's self-esteem for having served his country. 7. Instill national pride through public school activities starting with reciting the Pledge of Allegiance each morning, playing the National Anthem at every appropriate activity, teaching how to properly honor the Flag and National Anthem with the right hand over the heart, encouraging ROTC activities in school with emphasis on the benefits from such service, being quick to correct disrespect for our nation, flag, and leaders. Teach students our history and the sacrifices that have been made for them by those who have gone before them. Emphasize that it is now their obligation to teach this history to those who follow them.</p>
3/4/18	<p>The draft is absolutely necessary;both sexes; no exceptions or deferrals other than incompetence! It is every individuals responsibility to serve for at least two years active duty or ten years as a reservist.</p>
3/4/18	<p>The USA needs to require MANDATORY NATIONAL SERVICE of two years for ALL males and females to be conducted at conclusion of educational studies [either after high school or college]. No one should be excused from it, since there is something that everyone can do to serve their country, regardless of their physical and mental health and beliefs. It is deploring that so few people in government have actually served in military service! And, having "some skin in the game" will increase civic responsibility and patriotism.</p>

3/4/18	<p>thanks for the opportunity to voice just my humble opinion (as a military retiree ---I have earned this right). First-----every person---male / female at the age of 18 ----MUST--- apply to the selective service system. Should at an unthinkable time -- when there comes a major crisis that involves the USA---- ALL --- of our citizens---MUST be called upon to act in support of our nation. The collective entity of all of our men and women need to be available for possible emergency DRAFT. They all may not upon to serve as a military bearer of arms---but there will be plenty of other means to SERVE this great nation. Secondly, the Draft process back in my day was WAY TO EASY TO GET OUT OF serving one's country. That was the Unsolved problem ---- The EQUAL draft was fraught with loopholes---just look at our current Commander-in-Chief---4 "deferments" for bone spurs---what a laughing stock---purely he paid his way out of being drafted along side of me. In essence--- he "cheated" the system----as did thousands of other "well off" males during the Viet Nam War. The 1969 Gates commission appeared to totally ignore this well know fact---that if you had money/influence---you would not have to visit the local draft boards----this was a total failure of the then Draft system. It was a case of who you knew/who you paid off--to get out of going to Viet Nam. Thirdly, it is the responsibility for EVERY American to serve their country. No one can/should/must be left off from serving in some capacity. Today, it is well documented that only near 1% of America's population bears the burden of defending this nation-----that is immoral. Service make take on "other than military" role. But first we must take the time and discuss, then define and agree on what those roles could/should be. Fourth, We should NEVER been seen as a "totally MERCENARY" military force----but the correct balance of a living wage must be factored into the need to defend all of the likely foes that the US faces at any given time. The annual Threat Assessment must have valid criteria for forces to be determined---NEVER for political purposes. The USA needs to accurately define its real foes and it must consider that the USA is NOT the entire world's policeman.</p>
3/4/18	<p>Yes, we need to reinstate the draft. Yes we should include women in the draft. Yes all military skills including combat skills should be open to all women who physically qualify. I think Israel has a very good and efficient system. Not only will this prevent the military from being a "last resort" place of employment for under-qualified applicants, it will instill in all Americans who serve a true sense of Patriotism. Each person who serves will gain a better perspective of what it takes to serve and what it is to be a free American in a free society. James E. Shields, Capt, USAF (Ret) (12 years enlisted, 13 years commissioned).</p>
3/4/18	<p>Bring back the draft! No deferments, no excuses! No political office until you serve your time in the military!</p>
3/5/18	<p>1. Without the military draft, we would leave ourselves vulnerable to catastrophe if an able bodied large group of military is not an option to gather quickly. We cannot solely depend on an all volunteer Force if a catastrophic event or massive military attack occurred. 2. The current basic training program in the USAF is a joke. Everyone is being pushed through, not the best. So why not just have the draft, as it is the squadrons that are having to give the tough training that BMT is no longer doing. 3. Only the best of the best taken in and make the benefits and pay worth their while. Pilots use the armed forces to become skilled, then leave to get paid better through commercial airlines. BMT is allowing many people through the system that have no interest in serving their country, but instead joining to serve quick timeframe and believe it will be an easy transition from 'real life' they are avoiding. Military is already now seen in a positive light, but the lack of longterm desire to stay within the services is a problem. 5. We are missing a generation of families that understand the true meaning to serve. Vietnam veterans are at the tail end of their lives, many of their children (now in 40s/50s) do not understand it. There weren't forced to. To Serve is the ultimate contribution to our country. But the missing generation have raised children who are now completely removed. They have been raised entitled to their rights as an American and cannot truly understand the sacrifices of their grandparents. Those children (20s), are joining the armed forces. But what will they bring to our military Force if they are unable to understand the true nature of Service? 6. All Americans should be required to Serve their country upon HS graduation. Whether that be AmeriCorps, military branch, etc. Each able-bodied American citizen should contribute to our great country with one year of service. Every Single One. Male or female. 7. We are failing</p>

	<p>today's generation of Americans, because we are cultivating weak and entitled citizens. Today's youth/young Americans LIVE on social media. Start there. Make them believe in something bigger than themselves. You don't truly appreciate something, until it's gone. The majority of our youth have no concept of this right they were born with.</p>
3/5/18	<p>First priority is the government, must better define our national security objectives and what threatens our security. We have been (and are) involved in operations in parts of the world which are nice but not necessary for our national security (think Somalia in the 1990's, Iraq 2003, Syria today). We have sacrificed the lives of U.S. citizens in goodwill efforts. 1. Yes, we need to retain the ability to draft able bodied men and women into military service to provide for our nation's security. 2. If we are determined to make women equal to men in all things, then yes, we much modify our selective service process to require women of the appropriate age to register for selective service. 3. If global humanitarian service (non-conflict) is essential to U.S. national security then we need to develop a corps of public servants, distinct from the military and perhaps under the the authority of the Secretary of State, to respond to global humanitarian disasters. This corps could merge with the Peace Corps -- with Peace Corps providing capacity building of friendly and allied nations, and the Humanitarian Service Corps responding in emergencies. I would suggest Selective Service registrants could be drafted to man the Humanitarian Service Corps. This allows our military to better focus on protecting our country. 4. I contend the barriers to military and public service are different. Years of unfocused warfare are disillusioning people to serve in the military. I believe our citizens will respond to the call to service when the threat is clear. I do not believe the American Public understand the opportunities for public service -- Peace Corps and AmeriCorps. When people think about "public service" they assume non-profits like Red Cross, Team Rubicon, etc. which are competitive and not the same. 5. Yes, service does have inherent value especially in our self-centered, virtually connected, but actually disconnected world. Mandatory public service would do much to make every man and women realize their is something more important than themselves; that is serving others. 6. Yes, we should mandate military and/or public service for every American citizen between the ages of 18-30 years old. This will make America great again, not promoting personal greed. This service could occur in the military, Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, (even a CCC program that teaches work ethic, job skills while caring for public land) and perhaps even certain non-profit organizations that serve other people -- our fellow citizens in need. 7. Require a certain amount of military, public or (selected) non-profit service from ALL citizens or those who wish to become citizens (perhaps 150 percent of the citizen standard) before age 30. Incentivize the service through college tuition relief, a one percent reduction in federal income taxes, or something else. There cannot be waivers or exemptions. There are ways everyone can service others.</p>

3/5/18	<p>Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? No but need compulsory national service for males and females. Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Women should also sign up for the draft! How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? National Service Requirement! What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? Public Education System! Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? Participation and defense of the nation! Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? Yes, National Service but with only a few volunteers to fulfill the military needs! We do not need the draft because at least 90% of the youth, the military does not need nor want! How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? Revise the anti American education system from top to bottom!</p>
3/5/18	<p>A military draft is definitely a necessary component of US National Security considering that the majority of military aged and physically capable Americans defer military service for other opportunities in our society. Recruiting goals at this time are not nearly as great as they were during the World Wars, Korea, or Vietnam. Should we become involved in a war with China or Russia, it will be impossible to build a sufficient military force without a draft. Modifications to the SS system? The system that was in force during Vietnam worked. So long as that system is still in effect, no changes needed. If it has changed, especially enforcement, changes are needed. The unknown factor is women. Based on the current Socialist experiments that focus on women in infantry units, women should be required to register and be drafted despite the fact that women do not have the physical attributes to be ground combat soldiers or Marines. The mental ability of direct, hand to hand combat, won't be known until it happens, but as a retired Marine Corps officer who had several hundred under my command over the years, a lot of body bags will be required if this nutty experiment continues. Answer to number 3 is a draft. High tech skills addressed receive significantly larger salaries, direction that our youth is focused for a secure future. Money is not the only factor of dedicated military, but long term benefits that are not degraded by Congress is just as important to keep mid-grade to senior grade military onboard. E.g. recent increase in TRICARE fees and pharmacy costs. Blended retirement is no help to long term retention and will result in same look as REDUX of the 80s. I can no longer recommend military service because of this. No barriers to participation, just desire on the part of the individual. No incentive offered making it worthwhile especially when Congress has demonstrated it cannot be trusted to honor it's commitments. Credibility issue. Service has significant value by giving youth focus and direction through organizational and Service trained skills that transfer to the civilian community. Personal experience of myself and numerous relatives. The GI Bill is a key factor but more need focus, initiative, and drive to use it for college and Tech Schools. Mandatory service is necessary, valuable, but not politically feasible. Propensity for Americans to serve? Congress must keep their word in law and implementation. Do not use military retirees as a bank account to pay for DOD's budgetary shortfalls. This is noticed by active duty personnel and a factor of whether we recommend military service to our youth especially with a career focus. At this time, I cannot do this anymore due to the actions of House and Senate and approval of the current and past President to reduce our hard earned retirement benefits for purpose of increasing DOD budget. Stop Sequestration once and for all.</p>
3/5/18	<p>The current draft contingency should be modified to include both male and female so that a current data base is available. I do not believe the draft should be reinstated at this time but if they keep cutting the pay and benefits it may be necessary. I find it hard to tell young people that the military is a good place for a career. I still believe it is a good starting place to build the necessary qualifications and experience of anyone's future no matter what their career goals are. If we want some of our best and brightest young people to serve then we will have to make it equal to what they can get in other careers. There is just not that desire to live in the mobile society that the military has now days. I did it for the experience and opportunities, my plan was to stay until it wasn't desirable, that was 20+ years later and I enjoyed every minute of it. That is hard to sell to the young generation of today when</p>

	<p>all they see are cuts and continued family separations, and other things that make no sense but you have no choice of. Money was and I don't believe it is the main incentive driving service, but it sure helps. We need more representation in all government areas so we can insure that our way of life is protected and portrayed correctly.</p>
3/5/18	<p>#6: The comments directed to this question are appropriate for all questions. Society has deteriorated to the point that each succeeding generation is becoming less aware of the national standards and/or any need to serve the nation. The greatest advantage of military service is the proven fact that "we make men out of boys" and now "women out of girls." They come back as proud members of society, ready and willing to accept responsibilities, and positions of leadership. Service may be in many forms, from military to the old CCC and many other options. It is suggested that all able bodied youth be required to serve their country a minimum of two years in one of the many available options. It is guaranteed that the lawlessness currently seen on our streets would be cleaned up almost overnight. The problem is that no one has the courage to institute such a program. You are referred to the nation of Israel for a living example.</p>
3/5/18	<p>1. Yes. Success of the all-volunteer force is usually stated in terms that we have the best military in the world. What is neglected is the fact that a prediction made when we went to all-volunteer force has proved to be accurate; i.e., that presidents and Congress would be much less reluctant to commit such a force. With a force composed in part of draftees, I don't think we would have tolerated all these years of deployment of US forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, much less the other areas to which they've been sent. They may be the best, but we're abusing them, and we're devoting way too much of our nation's resources in the effort. 2. No idea how selective service now works. Certainly, the draft during the Vietnam era was riddled with inequities. 3. Increased participation in the military would require conscription or a severe economic downturn. Increased participation in federal public service would require, as a first step, cessation of the constant drumbeat of criticism of federal workers by the President and other national officials. 4. For the military, it's the constant deployments. Congress and the general public seem to think that throwing more money and freebies is the answer, but "thank you for your service" doesn't offset being away from families for half of one's professional life. For public service, it's the bashing mentioned in 3, above, plus a stripping away of job security and pay. 5. Yes, it does. It provides a buy-in to the good of the nation. Too many people in this country think only of themselves, and politicians pander to them. They want to have all the benefits with no personal sacrifice. Service shows people the problems inherent in taking care of our country and helps them feel like part of the solutions. 6. It's probably not necessary, but it would certainly be valuable, if, for no other reason, to bring people together - rich, poor, black, white, etc. Is it feasible? Absolutely not. The selfishness described in 5 would make a proposal for mandatory service political poison. 7. Have a war, an economic depression, or a revolution. Baby Boomers and succeeding generations have shown ever-diminishing interest in service, so the pool of role models is substantially eroding. The President and Congress lead the way in the other direction, clearly putting self-interest, both political and personal, over the good of the country. You didn't ask, but I'll tell you anyway. I'm not just a critic. I spent thirty years on active duty in the Army and another fifteen years as a civil servant working for the Army. I enrolled in ROTC when I started college in 1963 because my father was a career Army officer, and serving in the military just seemed to be something one did. I didn't intend to make it a career, but, over the years, it seemed like a good and honorable thing to do. It wasn't the highest paying world around, but we managed to be comfortable.</p>

3/5/18	<p>1) Absolutely. When you consider the military is smaller than its ever been since WWII, and with the volatility globally off the rails, the likelihood of a third WW is increasingly likely. Add to that the 'entitled' nature of our society, just in the last decade. It is probable that, even given a global crisis, the vast majority would choose to "lay low" and let the few put themselves in harm's way and carry the burden (as we have since 9/11). I am personally a proponent for 1 year of conscripted military service for every male and female at age 18. How can a society survive if 95% never serve, leach off the sacrifices of others, take their freedom for granted, and then think they know more about duty and honor than those that serve? 2) I don't understand why its necessary to have the separate system. Enroll everyone when they get a SSN at birth vs expecting them to do the right thing when they turn 17. Lotteries could be based on SSNs vs birth dates, creating a more random system. 3) You have to get rid of the crippling govt rules and bureaucracy. I serve, but that's the #1 compelling reason to retire at this point. The bureaucracy is wearing me down. Who wants to sign up for frustration when the private sector pays better and encourages efficiency? We've also had historically low raises for the last 8 years, so that's not helping matters to watch my relative buying power decrease despite getting promoted. 4) The biggest barrier is Social entitlement. Barring a crisis that threatens our nation's very survival, most of today's youth will shirk enlisting, and thinks our ever more socialized govt owes them something. 5) Absolutely... Service teaches people to be better human beings, to help others in bad situations, vs whipping out a camera to video someone else's misfortune. It forces others to see beyond themselves. And if they serve overseas, they get a perspective that might teach them Americans tend to be pretty arrogant and judgmental of other countries, despite knowing nothing about the world outside their own zip code. 6) Yes, please... If nothing else, you would give our youth a baseline of skills and discipline. You'd help drive some of the entitlement mentality out. Our society thinks slapping a yellow ribbon bumper sticker on their car saying "I support our troops" means they've done something meaningful. That's as useless as sending "thoughts and prayers". Once they've walked a mile in our shoes, they will be less dismissive of the freedoms they take for granted, because they'll have a basic understanding of what they cost. You'd likely also have less crime in the long run, so the more disciplined society incarcerating fewer people. 7) Change the GI Bill.. For every 1 year served, you get 9 months education credits. At 3 years, you're fully vested and get the full 36 months. Also offer micro-enlistments. 1-2 years AD, but on the hook for recall for 4 years, plus a small stipend for being "on call" that time.</p>
3/6/18	<p>I believe that all Americans should serve for two years after high school at some form of service to the country. Be it public service, military or infrastructure, similar to the CCC etc during the era after the Great Depression of the 30's or Peace Corps, Vista of the 60's. My feeling is that this will give a great foundation for our youth prior to any advanced education.</p>

3/7/18	<p>1. Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? No, not as a part of the military capability portion of our national security. But, yes, as part of a national public service policy, which would have a major effect on a broader concept of our national security. [Note: Admiral Mike Mullen, when testifying as CJCS said the greatest threat to our national security was our national debt. A corollary could be – we will never address our national debt unless we change our approach to the “entitlement” mentality of our people and instead recreate a sense of personal responsibility.] 2. Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Yes, as part of a larger public service system. Changes to the military portion would include women. 3. How can the U.S. increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? Require public service for all Americans. 4. What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? Cultural and political. A Cultural barrier in that we have created a society that feels “entitled” to benefits with no sense of responsibility for providing them. A Political barrier in that politicians are reluctant to stand up and vote for something that would be unpopular with constituents. 5. Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? Yes, the value is the long-term change in our culture. We need to reestablish the concept that the benefits citizens enjoy come with responsibilities. 6. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? Necessary and valuable, yes. However, it is probably infeasible. The devil is in the details: e.g. How long to serve in the military vs something like the peace corps; how to avoid “waivers” or exclusions to service for some classes of individuals; when must requirements to serve be met; what constitutes “public service” (i.e. is every government employee a public servant - for example is the town council secretary in a small town a public servant under such a policy?); etc. 7. How does the U.S. increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? We must change the sense among Americans that the things we enjoy are not “free” but come with a responsibility to provide and protect them for all Americans. And that responsibility involves participation in the provision of those things. This Commission would appear to have the appropriate charter to address this, but I suspect the expectation is focused on a military draft as the Commission was created as part of the 2017 NDAA. However, if we don’t address it, we will probably just continue on our path of government growth and paying more to a central government for them to provide what politicians and bureaucrats believe is needed.</p>
3/7/18	<p>Yes I believe a draft is a necessary component of U. S. national security. However, I believe that we actually should have universal service for all Americans. The service could be one year and served between the ages of 18-25. I think that having an all-volunteer army such as our current one is one that favors the rich, so basically it is an economic draft - preying on the less affluent who serve partially for the benefits offered by military service. If all congress persons and government officials' family members serve, then perhaps we will not jump into unnecessary wars, which pretty much defines everything we have been involved with since and including Vietnam. Having an all-volunteer army skews service to the poor and those who come from a tradition of military service. This is against American values of an all-citizen army, one of our founding principles. Having to lean on a very small percentage of Americans to fight and die for our country also places too much separation between the military and society, and reduces our chances for a cohesive society. We are also missing out on talent. One only has to look back at World War II when nearly everyone served who was physically able, to see examples of the advantage of a large talent pool. In this war, many citizens put their talents such as engineering and leadership skills to use in the cause, and we had a very capable and adaptable army. To cite one example, our naval fleet could be repaired at sea by American ingenuity and initiative, a distinct advantage in the Pacific theater. Having people from all classes and races serve together also would promote a healthier society. The people of my father's generation (he was a World War II combat veteran) often talked about all the positive experiences of serving with folks from all walks and geographic areas of society. The value of this phenomenon for a healthy and cohesive society cannot be understated. Many of these relationships carried on well past military service and created a band of brothers (and now sisters) that carries on through later lives and careers. One</p>

	<p>very important feature of the national service for all would be the option for those whose religious beliefs do not support war to be able to serve as conscientious objectors. America was founded on religious freedom and one of the rights that the American military fights for should be absolutely guaranteed to those in American society who qualify. For those who are objectors, alternative service in other fields akin to the CCC or America Corps or serving in the military in a non-combatant status would be an important component of national service. This right must be a principle of national service. My family has served in every war starting with the American Revolution. I myself never served in the military, but did serve as a U. S. Forest Service fire fighter. I believe that was my service to my country and it was a great experience.</p>
3/7/18	<p>I strongly recommend that some attention be made to the National Service proposals made by Gen. Colin Powell. These recommendations were based on the idea of a National Service requirement which could be applicable to all Departments of the US government. Please have someone from your organization contact Gen Powell and he can provide you with the essential details of his proposal. Thank you for your time and hopefully something can be accomplished.</p>
3/7/18	<p>The compulsory draft registration for the contingency of the United States Military is an immoral and ludicrous responsibility imposed on the young of our nation. Between the innate large population of the country, extraordinary government spending in the military sector, the lack of any potential enemies that come remotely close to NATO in terms military or economic power, and the predatory nature of military recruiters toward the young and poor, to further impose the threat of draft upon the entirety of our nation's young men is an act of nothing less than barbaric cold war era jingoism. A compulsory draft strips from young male citizens the democratic freedom of choosing between right and wrong and shackling them to the will of the government. To say that the draft is purely for defensive purposes (aka "national security") is also an utter farce, as the most recent draft was enacted in a war of foreign aggression on the part of the United States. We cannot continue to bind men, who are not considered old enough to drink or rent a vehicle, to the prospect of waging war on behalf of a government that seems to be more obsessed with war than with peace. We cannot continue to remove the freedom of choice from a generation that has grown up seeing just how ineffective aggressive foreign policy has been and expect them to still pay for those mistakes with their blood if so decided. By being forced to sign up the draft the government is demanding, needlessly, for men just entering adulthood to entrust them with the right to remove their freedoms and send! them into the flames of war on the basis of their own judgment. An ever increasing liability. It is my opinion that the abolition of compulsory draft registration is a necessary first step in forging a more diplomatic and rational nation, free from the restraints, burdens, and immorality of unceasing war. The young should no longer be forced to act as a safety net for those in power who have repeatedly used violence as a diplomatic tool at the expense of American lives and tax dollars. The continued existence of such a draft policy should be considered an embarrassment to our country and an insult to our young.</p>

3/8/18	<p>1. Yes, it is important to continue to have a mechanism as a contingency. 2. The SSS should be amended to include both sexes. There is no reason to exclude women from participating in the national defense. 3. I have always been a proponent of a requirement that both men and women serve some type of public service. Much like the old "draft system", there could be an age requirement (eg 20-24/post college), to perform some type of public service for a set period of time, e.g. 2 years. More specifically to the question asked: there should be additional incentives, advertising, and public awareness to make the general public more aware of the opportunities needed by the military, national and public services. 4. A lack of knowledge of such programs and/or a lack of interest. Increased public relations and communications efforts may increase participation. 5. Yes, by serving two purposes: (1) filling the needs of national public services, (2) providing individuals an opportunity to mature, provide a structured environment, and give back something to the community or country. 6. Yes, as stated in my response to Q. 3, mandatory service for both men and women affords opportunities to mature, grow as an individual, allows national priorities to be addressed. I believe it is feasible but would require (1) public support, (3) congressional support, and (3) funds for incentives, outreach, salaries, etc. 7. there are two ways to increase young Americans to serve: (1) make it mandatory or (2) voluntary via public outreach effort and incentives. An example might be with increasing college costs, incentives for student loan forgiveness in exchange for time served might make an impression. General comment: My introduction to public service was an involuntary one - it was via the "draft". During my time in the service, I saw the benefits of a structured environment for numerous young, drifting, and in some cases court-ordered service, provide these individuals a way to get their life in order. Applying this same concept to both men and women may have the same benefits for the nation and may assist in confronting problems of youth unemployment, the rising opioid/drug use, and other societal issues facing the country. It will take leadership, funding, incentives, outreach to implement but I believe one worth investing it.</p>
3/8/18	<p>National service is vital for our country. Our current system has been broken by allowing "bone spurs" to exempt the favored few, while the honorable service benefits to America by others is completely obscured, by a lack of transparency. America provides the security services for world trade, but even those trillions of dollars in financial costs, pale beside the real price of freedom, paid by our disadvantaged youth. Pax Britannica became Pax Americana after World War I, without a shot being fired. Empires often crumble from within, as the system's unfairness catches up. Universal service by lottery is not possible, but our current system makes fools of honest, and honorable people. We have a lot of work that needs to be done, but in this toxic atmosphere, seeing our way clear, will take time.</p>
3/8/18	<p>I support the immediate elimination of the "selective service system" and all institutions related to a military draft or draft contingency.</p>
3/8/18	<p>End the draft now. All conscripts have ever been used for is cannon fodder and I don't want that for my children or their children</p>
3/8/18	<p>There are strong reasons for universal national service. Such service could help unite this country by providing common experiences and common goals, and that is sorely needed at this time. However, national service must be truly universal, with no exceptions for the privileged. If national service were to be re-instituted, it is essential to provide accommodation for those who, for reasons of conscience, can not serve in the military. Our country needed many years (from the Civil War until the beginning of World War II) to recognize this moral need. I grew up in one of the historic Peace Churches, imbued with religious pacifism. I was fortunate that my religious belief in pacifism was recognized by my local draft board (this was definitely not true for everyone, including some of my friends from the same county). My Alternative Service was completed under the auspices of Brethren Volunteer Service. I spent six months as a "Normal Control Volunteer" (human guinea pig) at the National Institutes of Health as a subject in a study on intestinal absorption of amino acids. After that, I spent two years in the Polish-American Agricultural Exchange, an organization dedicated to reducing international tensions while promoting scientific exchange. These two experiences opened my 50-year career in nutritional biochemistry (still dedicated to alleviating human nutrition needs).</p>

3/8/18	1. The draft is necessary as a contingency in case off national emergency. 2. Selective Service registration should include all combat eligible citizens regardless of gender. 3. The decreases in pay and benefits need to be reversed. Military pay is far behind private sector pay and servicemembers and retirees are repeatedly asked to pay more out of pocket for services they need. Rather than fixing inefficient healthcare services, we just keep getting charged more. 4. Lack of support from military leadership and congress. Too frequent deployments. Poor support to families and spouses. Inadequate pay and benefits. 5. Service has a multitude of benefits including widening a person’s exposure to other beliefs and cultures both domestic and foreign. These benefits are currently overshadowed by the items above. 6. Now, no. In case of national emergency, yes. 7. Stop treating the military as second class citizens. Provide pay and benefits that are more attuned to the sacrifices military members make.
3/8/18	Hahahahahahaha, this politics related YouTube video is really so comical, I loved it. Thanks in favor of sharing this. Fbddckeeefeb
3/8/18	Appreciate you sharing, great blog post.Thanks Again. Really Cool. Gbgaffbffck
3/8/18	END THE DRAFT! ! ! ! ! END WARS! ! ! ! ! 2/3 of our tax money goes to support the 1% (actually more like .0001%) who make their obscene profits at the expense of everyone else. The U.S. Military Industrial Complex Murders (yes, Murders) countless people throughout the globe, causes untold misery in terms of those injured in wars all over the globe, mass starvation, loss of relatives, friendsetc.etc.. MAKE PEACE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.
3/8/18	My comments: 1. a draft is no loner necessary. 2. No 3. Citizens need to be inspired to serve, not coerced. 4. Coercion is the worst thing I experienced when I was drafted in 1967. The Army drill sargeants at Fort Ord, CA were mean, callus, homophobic, threatening, macho, unkind to women, unkind to us, and that, besides killing skills, was how they taught us to act. 5. Service can have value if it comes from an inspired place. Most folks wish to see our country thrive and prosper, and would love to do things to help others at home or abroad. 6. A mandatory commitment that stresses humanitarian goals, isn't a "one size fits all" system, and there can be no penalties for non-participation. 7. It must stress a humanitarian service both at home and abroad. It must offer to teach real skills, give a fair compensation and /or a way to get into college or a trade school, and have real goals that are achievable.
3/9/18	PART 1 WRITTEN SUBMISSION TO THE NATIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION Dear Commissioners, While US history may be a history of almost-continuous wars, it is no less a history of war refusers. The US since its inception was a haven in the world for freedom of religion which often incorporated war refusal into the consciences, study, and doctrine of members of the traditional peace churches. I should point out to you Commissioners that among religionists, America has seen the Amish here in Pennsylvania; Roman, Greek, and Russian Catholics; Quakers; Mennonites with 1.5 million current believers; Brethren; Hutterites; Doukhobors; Molokans; Jews; 1.2 million Jehovah’s Witnesses; 1.1 million Seventh Day Adventists; 200,000 Unitarian Universalists; Baha’i; Sufis; 50,000 Nation of Islam; Muslims; and a million Pentecostals, among other war resisters. These believers, even today, do not have inconsequential demographics. No fewer were political war refusers who had reached this ethical position for the greater good of us all. Socialists of many kinds; student revolutionaries; Black Lives Matter; Latino farm workers; and anarchists, to name a few. With the advent of Occupy Wall Street or anti-globalization protest, can you imagine these folks would sign up for war? High school and university students? Think you can put these genies back in the bottle, cow these Americans by force of law? You may want to reconsider. The US created a system for conscientious objection to military service but then made it so restrictive only traditional objectors could take advantage of it. In particular, a man needed to be a pacifist and oppose all wars. Of course, this system left out many men. These absolutist objectors then chose prison over war. Even though Civilian Public Service from 1941 through 1947 made alternatives available to COs, many young men refused to cooperate and many others walked away. The draft is a feudal press-gang running continuously in the U.S. since 1940. Under such compulsion, there will always be those who walk away. My very best birthday present ever was the ending of the US war on Vietnam on April 30, 1975. I was the last man arrested for the Vietnam draft, in December 1976. And pardoned by

	<p>President Jimmy Carter on January 22, 1977. In the process, the US war machine robbed me of my country. I moved to Canada and lost many of my ties with the US. I will refrain from presenting the argument here that, just maybe, we should not be fighting all these wars, or any, until we solve America's own problems, that \$700 billion could be better spent on social services and humanitarian efforts.</p>
3/9/18	<p>PART 2 WRITTEN SUBMISSION TO THE NATIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION But I can tell you for a fact that, if registration for military conscription is mandatory, as it is today, a great percentage of young citizens will continue to evade this requirement by refusing to register or making themselves impossible for government's computers to find. Military service has been touted since Vietnam as a way out of poverty, a route to a practical education, employability, and economic security. I think that's nonsense, of course, but just suppose government made such education and training a reality but in the civilian sphere, at a fair, living wage with a pension plan? I believe young people would sign up, voluntarily, in droves. What about training for nonviolent civilian defense which can actually protect us all? I hope this Commission is honestly considering ending draft registration. I refused to register in 1968 and I'd refuse today. I would always choose prison over war and there are many more like me. We need fewer troops, more public service at home, and more relief efforts overseas. Let's make that available to our next generation, not compulsory. Accomplishing this teaches our young people peace instead of war. We finally have the opportunity to do the right thing, to strike our own path, irrespective of conscription in any other country. Selective Service should rest...in peace. It's time to put an end to the draft in America, once and for all. No registration, no draft of men, women, or professionals. Return us the freedom on which our nation was founded. peace&freedom, As a final note, I wish to mention that I will make myself fully available for consultation with the Commission over this issue.</p>
3/10/18	<p>1st email and I have sent 1st mailed box of national service topic books, copies of info I shared about campaigning for using registration requirement of Selective Service System as a means to create an on-and-off, one-year discussion on the citizen values of voluntary contracted military and community service, or unpaid part-time traditional volunteerism. This proposed policy expansion of the mission of the Selective Service System, of moving the initial registration for boys and girls to their 17th birthday, in order to encourage a 1-year dialogue, and basic reply from men and women on 18th birthday of yes, no, or maybe later towards more formal commitment of civic service: was outlined in 96th Congress 1st Session H.R. 2206 bill, titled National Service System, February 15, 1979. This email has attached in PDF format; nine pages I faxed to 400 various Washington D.C. institutions, White House, Pentagon, Congress, Think Tanks, Lobbyist, etc. as I was having anxiety attacks over events related to the post invasion of Iraq, the challenging victory that followed. In my mailed information, included 2 newspapers articles from 1980 on my concerns as a Vietnam-era veterans experiences at Wright-Patterson AFB base from October 1973 on events related to the Yom Kipper War, and my deep concerns for a future U.S. war in the Persian Gulf oil fields, the counter-balance of a Youth Energy Efficiency Corps in style of the 1930's Civilian Conservation Corps. Sending so many intrusive faxes was my</p>

	way to hope that somebody would understand my national security priorities and take some thoughtful review of this policy proposal. My conclusion was that it only irritated those that had to deal with this information, in Washington D.C.
3/11/18	I really like and appreciate your blog post.Thanks Again. Edkeddbfakka
3/11/18	Thanks for this article. I'd also like to convey that it can always be hard if you find yourself in school and starting out to initiate a long history of credit. There are many college students who are only trying to live and have long or good credit history can often be a difficult thing to have. egdcgdfkfcec
3/11/18	I don't think a draft is beneficial to today's society.
3/11/18	I do not think that our security as a nations depends on our military strength. We are currently engaged in wars and occupations around the world, yet have never been more in danger, in my opinion. I would be in favor of a national public service requirement for young people, one which could be fulfilled with civilian or armed forces duties, and set up equitably. Both our military draft, and the current volunteer situation result in a disproportionate sacrifice by low income families, while the welloff have Often been able to evade serving.
3/12/18	I am a 49 year old registered pharmacist in the state of Maryland. I would love to serve my country as a reservist specializing in the medical field! I would bring maturity, experience, and leadership to the service that would allow me to join.
3/12/18	Bravo!!! It is about time our government established a civilian corps of professional recruits. Our Nation has vast resources that can be utilized to defend our Nation. I spent 32 years serving those who serve and if I were called upon to provide a specialized skillset, then HOORAH!!! To defend our country is the honor we all need to experience. We owe this debt for the freedom we all enjoy!
3/12/18	1) A military draft or draft contingency does not seem to be an appropriate mechanism in a nation as large as the United States. If people don't want to join, best case they don't do their jobs well, worst case the weapons you give them will not be used as intended. 2) Adjustments to the selective service system could test students on aptitude in key areas to better manage the use of manpower during a national emergency and could assist in targeted recruitments for specific individuals meeting certain criteria on those test. 3) Emphasize the national and public service by and for individuals. A lot of people in 2018 equate participation with a ticket to the Middle East. 4) Barriers to participation are fully perceptive. As such, mainstream culture seems to consider military service the only real patriotic service an American can do when that is far from the reality.Consider changing the listed order from alphabetical military, national or public service to national, public or military service to give the impression that military is not the emphasis. 5) The inherent value of service is to make a difference for your nation. 6) I hope mandatory service is not necessary for all Americans given the sophistication of our military forces. It could prove valuable in that it affords young minds from all throughout the nation to come together with a common goal which would foster camaraderie throughout our great nation. I do not believe it is feasible for the foreseeable future in this political climate. 7) Visibly and publicly align goals with the betterment of domestic America. Foreign forever wars are arguably the biggest reason Americans will not join military services and likely the reason this request for comments. In terms of optics, not many people will cheer if a suspected terrorist is killed along with 17 women and children.

3/12/18	Can we not exercise our freedom of choice in an extent to better serve our nation for what it fundamentally stands for? Is this not what countless others have sacrificed for the rest of the nation? The freedom to make our own decisions morally with whatever experiences our environments have cultivated for ourselves is the foundation for what America was built on and continues to strive for. Mandatory military service could disrupt that and allow for even more nationalistic egos to come into light whether that is in media or in politics. South Korea being an example off the top of my head for banishing their fellow countrymen for evading/dodging service sentences with their citizens furthering the negativity towards the victim in question. It creates a rift within the nation and the citizens.
3/12/18	I feel that as a country of the free, everyone should have the freedom to choose whether they want to serve or not. Not be forced in, whether it be based on gender or not. In my opinion, the draft should be abolished. Ways to increase service member population: Incentives help, but maybe they should be reevaluated to include more options. For example, dont only offer college tuition, but maybe start up business grants, if thats not already offered. (Tuition is the one thats always tepevised.) Support Jr ROTC schools more, as well as tech schools. And be the example for our future so that young men & women want to serve. Loyalty is key in wanting to serve & protect. With a country divided, less people will want to protect a broken nation.
3/13/18	The draft is forced servitude and should be eliminated. Also, if the draft must remain, women should be obligated to serve as well. This is only fair. But taking those with skilled trades is definitely insane.
3/13/18	The draft should never have been set aside. Our nation needs the best warrior available. A new draft should be implemented such that it can never be rescinded but always be flexible enough to gain the warriors we require and retained for enough time to be of value for both the present and future...I suggest a 3 or 4 year minimum.
3/13/18	My opinion: cease being the cop on the beat, bring the Military home, the country is tired of the continual war, which is draining the treasury of both \$\$\$\$ and blood. This is a sign of desperation on the part of the DoD/Government. At the moment, the country is decaying, the businesses that are profiting, aren't rebuilding the infrastructure, yet the government bends over backwards to serve them, at the expense of the taxpayers.
3/13/18	"thenextweb.com" published an article stating that comments may be submitted concerning restoring the draft. Thus, as a 4 year Navy veteran, I am submitting my comments: 1. The draft should be restored (although combat duty should always be voluntary at triple pay or at least double). People who serve together, and coming from different parts of the country, are united together as one under the flag. This camaraderie erases ignorant stereotype thinking that one may have about another part of the country, and the people that live there. It creates a more balanced thinking. 2. No one over 25 should be drafted. One older than that has become too "civilianized", and would present unneeded problems to the military and its order. 3. If necessity forces the drafting of people over 25, then their service duty should be as close to home as possible. Computer skilled people might possibly work from home, or at least work at a location that is commutable from their home. 4. Highly skilled or critically needed personnel should be compensated comparably to the civilian pay scale. 5. The draft was an interruption in people's lives, but they got through it; and left the service better prepared for life than when they entered it.

3/13/18	<p>To those seeking comments upon the idea of an extended selective service requirement for cybersecurity professionals: In regards to drafting cybersecurity experts involuntarily, in one word, don't. There is another model, or several other models, that might work using voluntary civilian auxiliaries. To use involuntarily conscripted experts is dangerous, and dissimilar to conscription of doctors or medical professionals in times of war. It would be like using drafted scientists to conduct the Manhattan Project-- activation of volunteers works, or exempting from other less pleasant duty works, but security requires trust. Cybersecurity has an even greater degree of trust required than intelligence work, as the potential risk for a malicious actor is compromise of an entire infrastructure rather than a simple leak of information. An alternative model was developed by ARCYBER and 1st IO working in concert with a team under the Hacking for Defense initiative (attached), and New America is working on a similar model. Both envision offering incentives during peacetime to entice civilian experts to work with and register for possible activation in times of crisis. The incentives the ARCYBER model foresees are largely training related, with one of the potential benefits most of interest to the community being the opportunity to potentially be vetted to a level where volunteers might be able to conduct some cybersecurity related work for the national security community in peacetime. Employers and partner organizations could also find organizing periodic Capture The Flag events an attractive option, as there are various things that need to be done in times of crisis that are hard to verify and train for. If the employees could demonstrate these skills in exercises with the military cybersecurity community, the employers could benefit while performing a national service that helps to develop the skill set of active duty cybersecurity professionals. The attached whitepaper outlines this concept, and is the result of significant research by the team who wrote the paper (some 130+ in-depth interviews of potential recruits and experts). I am sure they can be reached for further comment. The idea of using cybersecurity and information security experts in an involuntary capacity in times of crisis is, to put it bluntly, extremely dangerous, and unnecessary. Involuntary conscripts in traditional military activities require careful monitoring and supervision, and are subject to acts of spontaneous protest when conditions or missions do not meet with their approval. If the conscripts are the primary experts in the room, the ones that have the technical ability required for the missions, disaster is all but certain to strike. Snowden spent years gaining access to the highest levels of cybersecurity, and his leaks cruelly damaged us. We would be creating a literal Army of potential Snowdens and handing them the keys to the kingdom. If the missions were sensitive, they couldn't be done by the conscripts unless/until they had proven themselves... In the meantime, that small portion of our workforce able to conduct such missions would be required to monitor and safeguard the conscripts. We would either reduce our actual real security workforce until we could weed out all the bad apples (or enough to make it worth the risk), by which time any emergency impacting primarily cyberspace might well be in the endgame, or we would have to make use of them poorly on routine maintenance tasks where bad apples could have little impact-- and in cybersecurity, there aren't a lot of those positions. Misconfiguring a low-level tactical network could result in a lingering security breach that would risk the entire DODIN until it was discovered, making it risky to use potentially disgruntled conscripts for the purpose. Anyone manning a help-desk by the nature of the job has to have greater access than a routine user, making them a potential in-road for privilege escalation even if carefully monitored (even just knowing which users don't notice account problems for a long time would give information about how to socially engineer greater access). And there is nothing a bored expert could possibly do that is less risky than help-desk. If the purpose of the draft is to sequester all the experts and lock them away, it can be done-- but that is a poor model for a democratic system, the cyber-expert equivalence to the imprisonment of Japanese Americans. And, much like that imprisonment, by potentially alienating those whose skill we need (heritage speakers of Japanese in WWII), we do actual damage to the war effort in this misguided effort, in addition to the damage to the fabric of the republic. If there is any other purpose, it is worse served by an involuntary draft than doing nothing at all, because at least by doing nothing you can harness the patriotic instincts of those that would like to serve. The world of information security is nothing if not contrary-- by drafting their buddies, those that would willingly serve would be given incentive to resist. Increasing the pool of</p>
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recruits is a key part of better preparation for the current risk environment, but it is equally critical to recognize the risk to the force by poorly managed attempts at augmentation. A wonderful example of counter-intuitive impacts is the MAVNI program, the long-standing DoD program to recruit native speakers of languages of strategic need (Arabic, Urdu, Pashto, etc.) and incorporate them into the military. In the case of the MAVNI program, these recruits were largely sidelined by the difficulty of processing and receiving security clearances, and many were relegated to exercise support at JRTC. These were voluntary recruits, whose major threat model is the danger of simply talking about what they see or mistranslating. For involuntary recruits with expertise in evading security restrictions remotely, who by the nature of their skill-set would understand the inherent risks of the infrastructure setup... Well, we would probably be unable to even use them at JRTC. It would be a disaster, and given the likelihood of many of these experts to assist in case of national emergency without coercion, a disaster that could potentially cripple the pool from which we would want to recruit. And, demonstrated by the surveys conducted by the team investigated the cyber-militia concept, a completely unnecessary disaster. Thanks for your efforts, and my respect to you for tackling this difficult issue. Let me know if there is further interest in contacting any of the people involved in this research. Thanks much,

3/13/18	<p>I am 53, and would go back in a heartbeat if I could do Cyber security for the USAF. I have done many cases for the FBI as a anon informant. Last case resulted in 32 arrests, and convictions in 5 countries. One perp Sabu, was picked up in a white FBI van, within 24 hours of me locating his confirmed address. In yet another case for the FTC, 365 Million was recovered in Canada. In another case (Whitey Bulger), was found in an apartment in California, after his SON posted a picture of both of them in the library of the brokerage firm where he worked. Whitey had been using an alias for 21 years, and was president of the brokerage firm in New Jersey. In yet another case (Bernie Madoff), he was a customer at a company, I worked at in the late 1990's. I helped identify computers, resources, and recover money for those that had been duped in his schemes. I do not think all the money was ever recovered, and many peoples life's were ruined by this man. I knew about this back in the late 1990's, but could do nothing except walk away. I am quoted in 6 books on cyber security. My presentations, and comments, are used in training of FBI agents at the Cyber Academy in Atlanta Georgia. I am Diabetic, and have filed for disability via the VA, and SSI. I would turn it ALL down, in a heartbeat, if I could go back into the USAF doing Cyber work for the government..... I have a 2 year accredited degree, a 4 year unaccredited degree, a unaccredited Doctorate. Comp TIA A+, Network +, and Server + Plus manufacture certifications by about 14 different companies in warranty repair I have written presentations on cyber security, tracking and tracing cyber crime cases via e-mail and the web. In 2009 I assisted in writing the First Presidents order on Cyber security when I was able to prove that a physical cyber attack was linked to a computer virus of that time period... Bot Net related virus. I have also participated in various Child porn, credit card fraud, and on line scams via Paypal and E-bay. For the past 2 years I have regularly busted scammers on E-bay, and worked with Paypal to have many arrested and prosecuted. I remain... The Ghost Cat.</p>
3/13/18	<p>This nation MUST change its selective service registration to include women as there are no longer any restrictions on female service. You will have an uprising if you EVER attempt at draft without it.</p>
3/13/18	<p>I am an US Army vet. I was not the best soldier but I did try my best. I believe a draft will not be necessary if the age and physical requirements was changed for certain jobs. I was 36 when I enlisted. True if the house market had not crashed I would not had joined. If he military have different requirement for combat, combat support, and service jobs the military would reach their enlistment goals again. It happened once, September 9 2009. Yes that was when I enlisted. If you have a set of "soldiers" who don't deploy that would take care of one negative aspect of joining the military. A Civil Service Corp would take care of all the mundane administrative duties that the MOS 42 series take care of at this time. Almost all of the 68 series would be better off part of Veteran Affairs. What has happen in the past with VA would not had happen if the VA was more closely part of the Defense Department. My main suggestion is that the draft would not be needed if t! he age limit was waived based on the skills that was needed. A clerk in a base in the States do not need to pass a PT test to do a clerk's job. At worse if the military eliminates all none combat jobs that would lower the number of recruits needed.</p>

3/14/18	<p>I am a member of an Anabaptist (Mennonite) peace church, and as such, am opposed to all military action, though I do support members of the military returned from service. The men in my family have always registered as conscientious objectors, and have served their several years stints of public service. One of our local Pennsylvania psychiatric hospitals grew out of Mennonite conscientious objectors civilian public service: (from Philhaven's web site - "Our History"): During World War II, a group of young Mennonite conscientious objectors staffed state mental hospitals. Through these experiences, a desire grew within them to respond to the mental health needs in their own communities. They believed that there had to be a better way to provide professional care for the mentally ill than the deplorable conditions they saw in these institutions. Over the next decade, Mennonite mental health facilities opened across the United States. Philhaven was one of those centers, dedicated to providing the highest quality mental health services within a Christian environment where everyone is treated with dignity and respect. I truly believe in public service - especially for young people, perhaps as a gap year in college, etc. -- there is a long tradition in my family of serving with Mennonite Voluntary Service. Following is from Mennonite Voluntary Service's web site: Mission: Mennonite Voluntary Service is an Anabaptist, intentional service-learning program of the Mennonite Mission Network. MVS participants live in community with peers, serve with community organizations addressing the symptoms and root causes of injustice and actively participate in the life of their neighborhood and host congregation. MVS terms are one to two years and run from August to August. Issues: Community Development Education Environmental issues Food Justice Health Services Housing Immigration and Refugee Services Peace and Justice 30 I hope that if we institute a draft that it is for public service projects, not the military. In this nuclear weapons day and age, we have assured mutual destruction (something like 26 times over!), which will leave our planet completely destroyed, and any survivors would be subject to radiation sicknesses and unavailability of the basics of life sustenance. I urge you to consider public service for young people--both genders.</p>
3/14/18	<p>(3) How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? By providing opportunities like these. I have attached my resume to offer my services in the event you do enforce this. I think it's a great idea!</p>
3/14/18	<p>I support the following modifications to selective service: increase the minimum age of recruitment to 135 and revise gender requirements so that transgender, female, male, and all other other gender identities are exempt from all service.</p>
3/14/18	<p>1. no, the draft contingency is not necessary. 2. yes, it needs to be removed. 3. it shouldn't. 4. you condone and perpetuate things that do not coincide with the public's values or interests. 5. service in and of itself has value only if it actually improves the lives of others and doesn't cause irreparable and avoidable harm. 6. no, a mandatory service requirement is not necessary, valuable nor feasible. 7. the us increases the propensity for young americans to serve by targeting the poverty stricken and offering an inaccurate and glamorous promise to them that never gets fulfilled. stop lying to the young, stop endangering our citizens.</p>
3/14/18	<p>1. Yes a military draft or contingency is necessary. 2. Yes the selective service should be changed to require women to register. 3. and 4. We need to remove the bureaucracy in government. Both government civilians and military should be seen as a meritocracy with a system of up or out. The recruiting and hiring process needs to be more streamlined. 5. Yes service has inherent value. It removes any feeling of entitlement and increases the sense of ownership. 6. Yes, a mandatory service requirement for all is required and feasible. I think this would make the country a better place. It would also provide a venue to attack many of the nation's domestic problems. The mandatory service shouldn't necessarily be in the military. All youths at the completion of high school should be required to participate in a "national boot camp modeled after the military's" and chose how they are going to serve. This could be in the military, peace corps, americorps, in our inner city hospitals or schools, or in some other service corps. This could last up to</p>

	two years.7. Service needs to be instilled in schools. This occurs in many places, but there are many other parts of the country where this is not done and where service in the military is seen as a bad thing.
3/14/18	Sweet website, super layout, very clean and utilise genial. Edeceeddkfca
3/14/18	Several of these games are worth some time and are actually deecdgacdfdk
3/15/18	I wanted to introduce myself and provide a brief background about IT Cadre. The core of what we do is Strategic Analysis/Mission Analysis, providing leaders visibility into complex organizations and operations. We connect strategy to tactical operations using our Visualization Engineering® capability. The analysis is performed very quickly to reveal end-to-end linkages across an organization, finding gaps and inefficiencies, and most importantly reduce risk by providing early insight into potential problems and resistance points. We analyze the current state to help our clients gain a shared understanding of where they are today, work to gain a shared agreement on the future state for where they want to go, and then map out a strategic roadmap with a shared commitment to the road ahead. This approach enables an organization to deliver results and achieve desired outcomes. We have done over 250 Visualization Engineering analysis projects for the Army, AF, DISA and many other DoD and Civilian agencies as well as commercial organizations. We would be happy to show some of the Visualization Diagrams we have developed for our customers and have permission to show. These diagrams are a great discussion reference because they lay out what we do and how we use visuals as a way of conquering complexity. Our website shows a sampling as well within the videos. Please visit www. itcadre.com < Caution- http://www.itcadre.com/ > Please let me know when would be a convenient time to meet with you. Thank you for your time!
3/15/18	1. Yes 5. It provides self respect, an understanding of the reasons for dicipline and a willingness to sacrifice for the greater good. 2. Yes 6. absolutely 3. Reinstate the draft 7. Unknown. 4. Lack of appreciation of their country and an overall unwillingness to be a contributor.
3/16/18	I would sooner go to prison than be compelled to use my skills as a software developer in a military capacity. If drafted, I will refuse to serve. My life is my own, and my skills are mine to use as I alone deem fit.
3/16/18	I had to register for the draft back when I was 18 and I later joined the Navy. Originally I was going to serve for 4 years and get out. Things changed and I stayed for 20 years. Whether you stay for a career or not it really helped make a responsible man out of me. That is sorely lacking in much of our youth now days and military service would be a good thing for them. Besides it puts serious diversity into the military that is probably lacking for the most part today.

3/16/18	<p>am a Vietnam veteran, and a draft-induced enlistee (DIE). I wanted no part of the military or the Vietnam War in 1966, but was forced to take part against my will. I have been an opponent of the draft ever since. I would like to see a government that provides ample, and truthful, reason for a young American to join the military, especially in a time of conflict. Similarly, the young person should not be forced to take part in any type of "service" against their will. Any consideration of forced or required service would be contrary to all concepts of American freedoms. Then, once having served, the paucity of veterans benefits, and the poor delivery of those benefits, makes one's service all the more demeaning and sad. George Washington spoke about the need to treat veterans well if military service is to offer any appeal to future prospects, and the state of today's veterans care is certainly a deterrent to recruiting efforts. While we see an increased emphasis on attracting females to military service, the military's reluctance to revise its policies regarding the responsibilities for prosecuting sexual assaults, and the frequency of those assaults, are both great deterrents to recruiting. The best way to increase participation in military or national service would be to adopt a policy of truthfulness at every level, and then a policy of actually, realistically valuing the service and showing that appreciation by revising the treatment of our military personnel and their families during the time of their service, and of veterans after they leave the service. Anything less, and the current system is far less, is hypocritical and contrary to willing participation by anyone but the most economically challenged.</p>
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3/17/18	<p>1. A draft at this point would add numbers to feed and house but not actually incentives anyone. That said having the option allows for requirements in the civic population that would not be otherwise necessary. Such as PE in schools, and basic reading writing and arithmetic 2. Selective service means that when a child is born in the united states as a male child their parents are required by federal law to estabise that as fact. What might be a good idea is that when any child is born they are given a permeate tax id number 23 that is not to be used for anything other tax identification and not used by employers or for employment purposes as that is why ssn are stolen. 3. Separate the job from the rank and pay. Three columns on rank that should be a required level of experience at command. skill level that should direct how much to pay someone. job function the job actually being done should be paid based on the need for it. Meaning a troop that is good at shooting people should also be good at painting buildings. attention to detail. so when they have to risk lift and limb pay them for the risk and the skill and based on the ethos required to do so without killing. So each military personnel has a training record that shows what they were trained at what they are good at but in the civic fields that means nothing. So people end up getting trained by the military then getting out young enough to go to college to test out of degree programs so they can get low paying jobs to get experience that high paying clients pay for work. The military can remove some of the steps. Toss a bunch of recruits into training and test them to what they know then assign them the rank of Sargent and every Sargent is going to object that they cut in line. make them second Lt and every one in the military shrugs and assumes they have a college degree. so what they need is a college degree and experience. how does the military take kids off the street and give them that. ignoring social engineering complaints, the military shrugs and tells everyone that they are starting with the current active duty and running them through basic training then a renumbering system. but that people need to keep doing the mission crital jobs until their is some one to do their task while they get re-numbered. So the kids off the street are sent through the new rank system and the current person are sent through and told not to admit that they are not kids off the street until someone says they can not hack it in a job they have done for years. They come out of the new system as Sargent of Science in a field as they complete college courses offered through continuing education colleges and schools, they are sent back through the re-numbering program to engineering rank in the science field. Every job is shift to an journeymen - completed technical school with a passing grade, Sargent of science, and then an officer of engineering. Engineers are expected to problem solve even if it is not their field. The rank on their shoulder is their ability to lawfully executive legal orders. nothing more nothing less. Meaning every rank needs to be less than a Sargent of science if they can do the job to the seven level understanding as the nine level is more about management and that is really a rank issue not a science issue. above the Sargent are the people that can both command personnel and execute lawful orders and read and write them! 4. Ethos, Past History in crime and bad behavior. Finding people who can understand they might be attacked to prevent a mission from being completed even if they are not the ones carrying the weapons. Finding incentives 24 to justify the hours without getting people who simply want to soak up all the funds while not providing value for the dollars. Current military personal flights that are run by felons hiding from civic law enforcement. Greed corruption and general dislike by people who can not understand the benefits of commence. 5. No the service does not actually have inherent value only value provided by training. 6. Mandatory service assumes that all people are suited to military service which is false. That said some kind of community service being a requirement would be a positive thing. 7. Start with what is possible and give kids idols that are more the uniform and less the person. You can not forget the human element or they are just cartoons but the American people need heroes normal people that chose to stand against the corrupt barbarians walking through our society that take because no one is stopping them. Military that inspire people might inspire people who can not risk their life for liberty but might become a fireman or cop. Because we need those too. Something I was working on at the direction of hiliary clinton when she was the sec of state was a way to integrate the knights even on the ones of american standing like the knights of columbus into the department of defense. several senators I meant picked up on it but it is the department of defense that has to impliemnt it on their side because even if european countries try to</p>
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	<p>make it work the standing of ranks have to mean the same thing across all treaties. It is worth a look but it is living document for me as I have responsablites to my other dual citizenships that also require time that individual state bars could care less about in their search for ethical judges. it is not a me verse them but an analog to peaceful commerce that needs to happen but I digress the re-numbering could work something like Cautionhttp://www.vasdrakken.com/writing/InternationalMilitary.html < Cautionhttp://www.vasdrakken.com/writing/InternationalMilitary.html > Good luck being a test engineer of US Space command where my bloody honorary rank is causing more problems than I could ever imagine when the current pope in the Vatican asked me to be a priest and a knight was the alternative he came up with. I still think it is funny he was least likely to be pope for years and yet he was friends with John Paul the Second.</p>
3/17/18	<p>I truly believe that everyone should be required to serve his/her country. There are those who for religious, or other reasons feel they should not carry arms. Certainly there are other ways that they can serve, such as Habitat for Humanity, teaching, etc. This would certainly level the playing field between rich and poor.</p>
3/18/18	<p>Of course the draft is a necessary tool of national security. I believe that every person should be required to serve a year or so, including females, though they should NEVER NEVER be in combat. College and other things could get in the way, but they could be worked out. The greatest benefit of serving in the military, other than the obvious, is that It can make a mature, responsible adult out of a person, so many of whom are immature snowflakes. I see a special benefit for minorities-get them out of the hood. Perhaps,if they would start teaching a little honest American history and patriotism in the schools, it would help incline many youths to the military.</p>

3/18/18	<p>I feel that the military draft is a necessary component of the U.S. national security. As it is, the military services are having recruiting issues trying to fill the needs of their needs. I was initially drafted into the military in 1968, but volunteered instead so that I could choose the branch of service and the field I wanted to serve in. Ultimately, I spent two years in Vietnam as a helicopter pilot and then another 22 years in service, retiring from the U.S. Army. Being a part of the military was the best thing that ever happened to me. It taught me discipline, responsibility, respect for others, and most importantly it introduced me to others from every walk of life and location. Additionally, it taught me a great skill as well as accepting diversity. I shudder to think of where I may have found myself in life if I hadn't gone into the military. All able-bodied U.S. individuals should serve a minimum of two years in the military or public service to jump start their road to maturity and responsibility. The participation in the military/public service should start at age 18. Therefore, after the required two years of service the individual will be more mature and have a better idea of the career path they wish to seek. They will also be ready for a serious education, should they then desire to attend college. One way the United States could increase the propensity for young Americans to serve, would make it mandatory and offer two years of free college tuition or tuition to a trade school upon completion of service. Incentives could also be offered to remain in the military/public service for those so inclined. Serving our country is a selfless act and adds moral character as well as providing a much-needed service for our citizens.</p>
3/18/18	<p>Respectfully, I believe that we should eliminate the selective service/draft registration system. Neither men nor women should be required to register.</p>
3/19/18	<p>As a retired Marine Colonel, Retired HS teacher, a USNA Blue and Gold Officer and a Test Administrator at Chicago MEPS, I have talked to thousands of young people encouraging them to investigate the opportunities the military offers. My two daughters were also Naval Officers. There are several critical obstacles to getting kids to look into military service. They are parental objections, school and teacher opposition, and understanding the true purpose of the military. Generations ago military service was promoted by the ruling elite (as a form of Noblesse Oblige) as an obligation and a way to enter politics. Currently, most upper class and elite families think their children are too good to serve. They feel military service is better left to the uneducated and minorities. Many private schools and some public schools severely limit or restrict military recruiters from going in their schools. They do this for a variety of reasons. Many schools indicate the parents do not want! military recruiters in their schools. My suggestion to the commission is to develop a program that directly speak to the objections of parents, teachers and other educators. I would also encourage the commission to hire people for the commission that have experience with recruiting. Respectfully, Kevin Burdick, Colonel/USMCR(Retired), USNA BGO-IL</p>

3/19/18	<p>My son just turned 18, and he is aware that he must register for the draft within 30 days of his 18th birthday, is proud to do so and will do so - if he does not, he is aware that the following actions/penalties/threats will apply (according to the Selective Service website): 1. Threatened by his government with a penalty of either 5 years imprisonment or a \$250K fine 2. Ineligible for government student loans and grants 3. Ineligible for federal job training 4. Ineligible for employment in both the Executive Branch and the USPS 5. Security clearance background investigation will verify registration status for federal positions or as a contractor (whatever "verifying registration" means...he has an idea of what this means) 6. His name will be referred to the Justice Department for investigation/prosecution</p> <p>7. Cannot attend a state school (here in Colorado) without registration (a statement of compliance) He is also aware that about 18 months ago (2016), all positions/all branches of the Armed Forces of the United States were opened to women, without restriction. He is also aware that the Armed Forces are the epitome of "equal pay for equal work", and that women are eligible for all of the benefits listed with no requirement to register, and no threat of any penalty whatsoever. On its face, this policy seems to be egregiously unconstitutional: young women receive all of the benefits, with no responsibility whatsoever; young males on the other hand are "pressed into service", threatened to register, or else... My son believes (as I do) that the legislative branch of our government is comprised, for the most part, of moral cowards - elitists who do not even possess the moral courage to right this wrong, and require ALL 18-26 year-old American citizens to register for the draft. Moreover, it is likely that this "national service listening tour" is a scam, designed stretch out so that a) no decision will have to be made before the 2018 mid-term elections, and b) no decision will likely have to be made before the 2020 presidential campaign season. Oh sure, the elitists politicians will use this issue to get elected or re-elected, but they will only make recommendations...they simply will not make a decision. This speaks to the core of what is wrong with the geographical area "inside the beltway" in this country: politicians who avoid their duty at all costs by continuously kicking the "decision can" down the road, while excluding 50% of the target population from a "legal" federal requirement...based on their gender...while threatening the other 50% with imprisonment if they fail to comply...based on their gender. In the not-too-distant future, I am hoping that the US Supreme Court receives a friend of the court brief, and quickly and logically applies several constitutional remedies. Then, the legislators can take the moral high ground, and blame SCOTUS. John Erskine Chief Warrant Officer Four US Army (RET)</p>
3/19/18	<p>One barrier prohibiting me from joining the military is my "disability." Though I have been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, I have still learned how to communicate well, and I'm sure there is a lot I can contribute to, even if I don't ever see combat.</p>

3/20/18	<p>1. Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? Yes, 2. Are modifications to the selective service system needed? A Draft needs to be adapted to meet both the needs of the military and the expectations of the public. The military and the public that existed in the 1970s, last time we had a Draft, have changed. The nation needs recruits/draftees that want to serve and are physically and mentally able to serve either in the military or in national service. 3. How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? First, leaders need to inspire people to serve (JFK not what your country can do for you...) and second, the service has to be promoted, encouraged and incentivized (how many Billions does the military spend on their recruiting ads and bonus programs per year?) Offer a GI Bill option for National and Community Service maybe at a percentage of what active duty military currently receives and get private companies to invest in the "Service GI Bill" since they will benefit with a better work force with skills. 4. What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? Lack of a willingness of people to serve and sacrifice for their country. Many Americans feel that someone else will do it for them; in the past that was the poor and military families. There has to be a need like a World War or Depression that shakes the country to the core to get Americans to pay attention to more than their daily life. Public service has been impacted by the loss of the middle class and good paying, many union manufacturing jobs, with lower paid and lower benefit jobs requiring the public to work more hours or multiple jobs. This does not allow for the time at the end of the day or weekend to volunteer or provide the community service. This also requires spouses to work in order to contribute to the family budget. People commute long hours to and from work eating up the time they had years ago when they lived in cities and neighborhood and participated in that dynamism! c. 5. Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? Service allows you to connect with your fellow Americans and understand their situation. This is a humbling experience that most Americans desperately need to live a better connected life. 6. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? Valuable, yes but feasible no. Many rich folks, as was common in the past, will find ways around any mandatory service no matter what the value of that service is. 7. How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? Make service have social status, do not have leaders belittle public service and incentivize that service.</p>
3/20/18	<p>1. NO. A draft is "INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE" in violation of the U.S. Constitution's amendment that prohibits slavery. It is HORRIBLY ILLOGICAL AND COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE to try to "protect freedom" by taking away people's freedom for forcing them into INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE to the military. 1. If people do not VOLUNTARILY JOIN to fight a war, the basic principle of DEMOCRACY proves that that war should NOT be fought. 2. REVERSE THE BURDEN OF PROOF FOR CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS. Currently, the law assumes that people are willing to kill strangers. Anyone whose conscience or religion prohibits that is required to prove CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION in order to be exempt. We must REVERSE THE BURDEN OF PROOF. We should assume that PEOPLE KNOW BETTER THAN TO KILL, so instead of a draft, we should rely entirely on volunteers and REQUIRE THAT PEOPLE PROVE TO THE GOVERNMENT THAT KILLING PEOPLE IS O.K. WITH THEIR CONSCIENCES AND RELIGIOUS BELIEFS. They should have to write essays and provide documentation -- as is required now for people applying Conscientious Objection -- before anyone should be allowed to join the military. 3. Pay a decent wage and protect all human rights and civil rights. 5. People who think that people should be forced to work for the government -- in military or any other government role -- are doing what HITLER AND STALIN believed. This is TOTALITARIANISM, NAZISM and COMMUNISM. A free society does NOT force anyone into involuntary servitude. 6. See my answer to #5 immediately above. 7. The U.S. government -- even before Trump's horrible tilt toward fascism -- was FAILING TO REPRESENT AND SERVE THE PUBLIC INTEREST. It has been tilted toward militarism, Big Business, and empire. The U.S. government has been slashing its compassionate care for people who are poor or sick. It has been rolling back environmental protections and civil rights. THE GOVERNMENT IS REPELLING THE PUBLIC.</p>

	Compelling service would only make this worse. OUR FOUNDING FATHERS KNEW THAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST EARN -- NOT COMPEL -- RESPECT FROM THE PUBLIC.
3/20/18	End draft registration! The whole selective service system is antiquated and outdated, as well as coercive. No one should be drafted and many people are pacifists and oppose ALL wars, and many more are NOT pacifists but oppose the unjust, senseless, and counter-productive wars we have been fighting for the past 50 years, such as Vietnam, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Libya, Panama, Iraq, Afghanistan, and many other Third World nations. No Draft!
3/21/18	My input is to expand service by being more inclusive of populations that we tend to view as serving rather than being served by. For example, including people who are overcoming mental health challenges, and accommodating the program for this population by decreasing the 1700 hour requirement. I suggest removing the references request, as people who have been unemployed long-term may not have the references needed. Yet, they still deserve the chance to prove themselves regardless of the ability to obtain references. In addition, including people who are DACA recipients or who do not have status is also a way to engage additional people. Lastly, I would suggest modifying the program to be supportive of people who have disabilities in engaging in service. I really see AmeriCorps being an opportunity for oneself and for the community being served so including the above 4 populations would help us address systemic inequalities when it comes to opportunity. Thank you for the chance to voice my thoughts on how CNCS can expand national service.
3/21/18	The greatest pride in my life has been my time serving. Through VistaAmericorp I love knowing I have made a difference.
3/21/18	Hello, I am writing as a 3-year AmeriCorps VISTA alum. Two of those years I was a VISTA Leader. I found immense value and fulfillment in my service at a local United Way. I saw how my work and that of my cohort brought much-needed resources to the agencies we served and the communities where we lived. I also saw many of the challenges faced by agencies to recruit qualified candidates and the challenges faced by VISTAs during their service. In regards to question 3, participation in National Service could be raised through promotion. Most people I encounter have not heard of AmeriCorps or its various programs, let alone the benefits of participation. Getting the word out to high school and college guidance counselors and employment services would educate a lot of people in the right demographic. For question 4, I think the biggest barrier to participation in National Service is the challenge of living on the poverty-level stipend, especially if participants have children, and! if there are restrictions against having other income-earning jobs. That makes it so that only those who are privileged enough to be supported by their family or spouses can participate. I would have had some serious economic issues had my family not helped me out when I had a car accident or when the government shut down and we weren't paid. To answer question 6, no, I do not think mandatory national service would have a positive outcome. The nonprofit industry requires a passion for the work and the people being served. Filling positions with unwilling participants would be a waste of resources and time, as they would collect their stipends while not

	<p>accomplishing their goals. Jumping back to question 5, as I mentioned above, service has great inherent value. It is fulfilling to help others and increases our empathy for our fellow Americans. It also helps build skills that make participants better workers and community members after service. In regards to question 7! , the United States can increase the propensity for Americans ! to serve by promoting a culture of empathy and understanding for each other, where the poor, underprivileged, minority, elderly, disabled, young, and sufferers of disaster are seen as deserving of aid and attention.</p>
3/21/18	<p>AmeriCorps, including VISTA, NCCC and national/state programs are vital to our country and should be continued. AmeriCorps service programs have an immense impact on our communities and for those that are serving. While this service should not be mandatory, having the opportunity to serve our country in this capacity should be continued and expanded.</p>
3/21/18	<p>Regarding encouraging young people to volunteer, I feel they would be very attracted if some sort of hiring preference could be established, as it often is for military veterans.</p>
3/21/18	<p>What's going on in my area, Northern California, that I can help with? Alan Bouverat [REDACTED]</p>
3/21/18	<p>Help make college affordable. Get rid of this ridiculous student loan debt system and simultaneously encourage national service gap years like AmeriCorps and watch the country improve! Thanks to a generous scholarship I graduated university in 2007 debt-free. And then began a debt-free decade traveling with intention through work with meaning. All through my 20s. Now 32 - and having lived all over the US and abroad, working with incredibly inspiring organizations - I'm commenting on this form from Zambia as a Peace Corps volunteer. More young people need these opportunities. Our country needs our young people to have these opportunities. - Adam Greenberg. www.AdamGreenberg.com</p>
3/21/18	<p>More students of high school and college age ought to be informed about service programs such as AmeriCorps and other public service-related programs. Particularly for the Millennial generation who prioritize work-life balance and opportunities to undertake work that is personally meaningful to them, military, national, and public service options are a viable option to those who identify with this generation. In college, I had only heard about Peace Corps, and AmeriCorps was never in my vernacular and therefore never an option I considered. Greater marketing and advertising is necessary for such types of programs.</p>
3/21/18	<p>I agree there is a serious shortage of tech skills. I recently retired from the ANG and was part of a Cyber unit, one of the first as a matter of fact in the ANG ([REDACTED]). I retired after 21 years of service and am only in my early 40's. I do Cyber work in the civilian sector as well (Vulnerability Mgmt), since I started my career. I would gladly serve in times of dire need, if asked to do so. But.....the military needs to reconsider the following, not necessarily for me, but in general: Age Restrictions Physical/Fitness requirements Appearance Marijuana use (I say that because the younger generations use this recreationally & states are also legalizing this) Much of the work in Cyber can be done from home station, folks would not be "in country", they would not need to lift heavy boxes or run miles. They are pure desk based jobs. Some military requirements/restrictions don't apply and shouldn't. Only IF you would be "down range" should they apply. Thanks for the opportunity to have a voice.</p>

3/21/18	I understand that consideration is being given to drafting older individuals with skills in technology and cybersecurity. That is both unnecessary and ill advised. Drafting older citizens is grossly unfair to the individual. Compulsory service does not pay the wages as senior technology jobs, and taking someone out of that at the height of their earning potential would be devastating. That will cost families their homes, children their college tuition, and the draftees their retirement due to the severely reduced income they'd suffer. The challenge government has in obtaining those skills is directly related to the compensation and civil service system. Pay competitive wages on the free market, provide interesting and compelling work, and get rid of the civil service system that protects dead weight over productive employees, and the skills will come. Fix the system, don't force more people into something even worse.
3/21/18	I strongly feel that the United States should require public service from every young person. Public service could include military service but equal importance should be given to domestic non military service. Think WPA, CCC and then imagine the good that would accrue to our citizens.
3/21/18	If you paid market wages for InfoSec, it would be something to consider. But no one is willing to take a 60% pay cut for "country".
3/21/18	I believe that a mandatory service requirement should be instituted for all Americans. People should be able to have some choice in how and where they serve, depending on their skills and interests, but mandatory service should be required. Mandatory service would create a common ground amongst all people of our nation, bringing together those who might not necessarily cross paths otherwise. This common ground would strengthen our democracy by creating spaces for conversations/dialogue, much needed in today's day and age. In order to increase the propensity to serve, there needs to be more opportunities for young people in areas that they have an interest. For example, my boys helped at a local national wildlife refuge, until the man in charge of them was laid off. The woman who took over wanted my boys to be inside leading kids' crafts activities yet, when working for the man, my boys were able to be outside, maintaining trails, building boat ramps, etc. Why do you think that my boys no longer volunteer there? If they could be outside, using their hands and skills, they would still be volunteering their free time at this local national wildlife refuge. Unfortunately, you can't fit a square peg into a round hole! Additionally, too many of the opportunities for young people are focused more on 'safe' activities (kids'crafts) than what is of interest to the young people, especially boys.
3/21/18	First, Thank you for your service. I am a local government employee who has worked with federal and state housing and community development grants for over 25 years so I also provide a public service. And seeing retirement on the horizon, I have wondered who would be interested in doing my job. In my office the youngest staff member is 39. My HUD reps are all retiring too. I can't see that a millennial would be interested in what I do. It is a multi-audited, highly regulated, deadline driven job with very little acknowledgement or appreciation. Why would they be interested in this type of job? Yep, I've kinda wondered why I still do it. But the rewards are when you see a home rehabilitated for a senior, a new public facility built in a low income neighborhood, or providing DPA for a teacher to buy her first home. So that needs to be a focus, helping others. Now to be bluntly honest, I don't think you'll get the attention of the kids you want to reach if your Facebook page doesn't work, this website is not visual (lots of writing), and needs to be less "federal". So I asked my son, a college junior, what he thought about this website. He said the site wouldn't interest him and the interview with Gov Matters was boring as it looked like a news show. His history teacher was shocked last month when he learned that the class doesn't watch the news and didn't even know what the show 60 minutes was about. My son said that his generation won't go out to look for this info, they are used to receiving information via social media. It is handed to them. And they want it now and in brief tidbits. So to answer some of the questions above, 1) Yes; 2) Most likely; 3) The military ads are working, my son has noticed, he added that they need to tell more about how it is a career opportunity, that's the plus; 4) Barriers for public service is the learning curve, as I noted above in my type! of work. Who wants to learn about the Uniform Relocation Act! , Davis Bacon, NEPA authorities, HUD regulations, etc.

	<p>Someone replacing me needs a few years under their belt. Maybe provide loans to students with a return of work to pay them off. A two year associates with a short internship would do. And this could be at a local community college or private college. I can see Blockchain working within my field so that is also an option; 5) Yes, community investment is more than \$\$, it is the partnership and involvement in your neighborhoods or city; 6) I would say mandatory if a person is receiving government assistance. That would be SNAPs, Training/Instruction, Section 8, etc.; 7) Get with a marketing agency that will get this in front of the younger generations. Even start in middle school. Think Gary V. Make some videos, grainy, on the move, etc. Definitely on this website add more of what the younger groups are doing. Show off their efforts. Lots and lots of videos about them. Thanks and Good Luck! I think you'll need it.</p>
3/21/18	<p>My input is to expand service by being more inclusive of populations that we tend to view as serving rather than being served by. For example, including people who are overcoming mental health challenges, and accommodating the program for this population by decreasing the 1700 hour requirement. I suggest removing the references request, as people who have been unemployed long-term may not have the references needed. Yet, they still deserve the chance to prove themselves regardless of the ability to obtain references. In addition, including people who are DACA recipients or who do not have status is also a way to engage additional people. Lastly, I would suggest modifying the program to be supportive of people who have disabilities in engaging in service. I really see AmeriCorps being an opportunity for oneself and for the community being served so including the above 4 populations would help us address systemic inequalities when it comes to opportunity. Thank you for the chance to voice my thoughts on how CNCS can expand national service.</p>
3/22/18	<p>Hello I wanted to submit a comment to help other people that are in the same position as myself. I had to file bankruptcy due to medical and the loss of my business. I'm on disability and I'm getting older. My age, disability and health I can't find anyone to give me a loan and my income is low. Because my SS is over the amount I don't qualify for programs because I make too much. So I have lost everything and can't rebuild. I know I'm not the only person out there. If it wasn't for my family I would really not have a chance and would be homeless.</p>

3/22/18	<p>Extending the years your current 255A,N,S personnel are allowed to serve would help. Allowing those same soldiers to do their jobs on a daily bases would help increase their skills immediately. Forcing reliance on them would help keep them in longer. Providing a place for those that cannot pass the pt test because their job requires them to sit because the treadmill desks are not allowed at this time. Make the feeder MOSes required to do their jobs and actually taught to do them. The US Air Force is already doing this. These are high concentration jobs. In the Civilian work places these people are high priority. They cannot be let go for military duty if they are any good at all. Then they are kicked out from Reserve and NG positions because of lack of performance, weight or PT. Most of these will never be asked to fire a weapon let alone fun ten miles from their air conditioned bunkers. In short these positions need to be seen as something that requires a toughness the the bodybuilder will never accomplish. Age is generally not the issue. Skill sets are key and most relevant. The ability to think quickly, accurately, and implement their ideas is key, being able to run ten mile not so relevant. Reimplement the SQT test for the key Army MOSs will put Inteligence back on an equal footing with the pt stud that cannot generally program a tic-Tac-toe game with a seventh generation IDE. We need fast agile C and HTML programmers, IOS CCIE studs and SQL experts raised with Military values that are trained by high speed NCOs that know their trade and have been allow to do it, selected because they were smart and new their jobs, proud of their hard earned SQT scores as much as getting their fitness badge. If you wish to lose this race simply give every signal and cyber unit a CSM that does not understand the trade and a commander that believes they are there to manage only and do not need to truly understand what there mission requires. See these units up with leaders that do not understand what the enlisted and junior NCOs are saying and the unit will fail because the leaders will not allow the soldiers to do their jobs. I'm not hard to find if you would like more on these issues. You trained me and I want to serve. Just let me do it.</p>
3/22/18	<p>I support conscientious objectors and believe having a draft with lasting legal penalties for not registering is a restriction on their religious expression and civil freedom. If those claiming CO status can be granted this, then I would allow a draft. Having a draft system in today's military environment only allows the use of force (WAR) as a primary option.</p>
3/22/18	<p>My comment is: I agree with opening selective service to all ages and genders. But I also think every individual should choose "voluntary" or "involuntary" on their record. Volunteers should have higher priority than non-volunteers.</p>
3/22/18	<p>I do not believe a military draft is necessary or appropriate. I think we need to work on having less wars and military presence across the world, so having more troops is not a good idea. We should instead build up national service programs like Americorps, Peace Corps, and Youthbuild as an alternative way for young people to serve the country. These programs are great because they serve our communities and also teach young people critical skills. One barrier to participation in these programs is that they are so low paying that many people cannot consider service for financial reasons. These people should make a more livable cost of living stipend. Service does indeed have inherent value, as it helps people feel connected to their communities and country and also fosters a lifelong desire to work for the common good, not only personal gain. I do not think service should be mandatory, as part of the beauty of service is that it is a choice to work to help others and build u! p our communities and country. The value in that would diminish if someone was making youth serve. However, all youth should have the opportunity to serve, and marketing and publicity should be expanded to make sure youth know about opportunities in Americorps, Peace Corps, etc. We need more visibility for these programs to increase the propensity for Americans to serve. As a proud Americorps alum, I believe in the power of national service. These opportunities need to be expanded for young people. Americorps helped me find my way and has been a defining experience in my life. At 20 I was in between colleges and lacking direction. I joined an Americorps program, the Nevada Conservation Corps, and embarked on a journey that would profoundly alter my life trajectory and provide me with the tools and will to sculpt a career working in service to the betterment of our country and environment. I worked grueling ten hour days wielding a chainsaw in the Nevada desert on fuels miti! gation projects to protect public lands from wildfire. Through! the sweat and loneliness of eight</p>

	<p>day hitches in the backcountry, I came to love conservation work and working to improve our common inheritance as Americans- our public land. I have been able to leverage my experience in Americorps into a fulfilling career with land management agencies. More young people should have the opportunity to serve, particularly to help improve and protect our public land.</p>
3/22/18	<p>3. In general I think that government can make public service more attractive to STEM, knowledge professionals. But Defense and military service will not attract these intelligent professionals who have career alternatives in industry or research. They should be viewed as professionals and offered incentives that align with their profession, not with the DoD as a career. [An comparable analogy would be doctors and medical professionals who serve voluntarily in Doctors without Borders and similar organizations. These professionals retain their professional goals, skills and practices, but they *apply* them in volunteer situations.] Allow computer science and engineering professionals to apply their professional skills in a voluntary situation serving the country, but retaining and supporting their professional attributes. Science and engineering can be applied to government and national service. But the agencies are so large and amorphous they swallow up these professionals and effectively remove them from their profession(s). There is clearly a need for security confidentiality and loyalty when a professional is called to apply his skills in national service. Employment of such professionals by a large government agency or DoD nicely ensures that security rules and procedures completely apply. It is admittedly a challenge to deal with outside professionals due to security concerns, isolation and protection of information. But</p>
3/22/18	<p>1. Yes, every able bodied 18 year old should be drafted for a 2 or 4 year term. This would not only be good for our defense, but would be good for the draftee as well, teaching them respect, discipline, and learning a skill(s) .. win-win. 2. See above 3. Provide lifetime benefits 4. Barriers are family ... allow telecommuting 5. Patriotism 6. Yes if it starts before they have a family. Yes, and yes 7. Mandatory draft</p>
3/22/18	<p>1. I rise my voice for professional activities. Each man must do his work as professional. So that if man does not want to be the soldier he will not be the professional soldier. 2. So is as in my case. Once I knew about SSS my age was 31 years. I did not take part in it. 3. Modify your immigration system to be more friendly for these people. 4. As a man from Russia it is difficult be answering the questions 4,5,6,7. As my opinion I do not see the barriers to be the member. I am supposed there is not willing to do some good for another. It is problem concerned not only US.</p>

3/22/18	<p>1. I do not believe a military draft is still a necessary component of U.S. national security. If the U.S. would cease bombing brown people and bring our troops home, then we could end this silly imperialist notion of a draft. 2. Yes. End the draft or else make it compulsory for all, including rich kids and those with bone spurs. 3. Stop being assholes. Vets from WWI & WWII are referred to as belonging to the Greatest Generation mainly due to the fact that they fought to save people from genocide. The current U.S. military does not save people from genocide unless there is a monetary or tactical advantage in doing so. The wars currently being waged by the U.S. are not winnable. There is no end game. These wars only kill brown people and line the pockets of Defense Contractors. 4. The biggest barrier for me to be able to stomach participating in our military would be the willingness to accept that I would be a party to bombing children and enabling a system which feeds on our poor to man our front lines, as well as enabling a system which spends an enormous amount of U.S. treasure on death instead of life. I am not willing to do that. Why are we only moved to action within nations which enable us to obtain oil? Why doesn't the U.S. military involve itself in all nations where genocide is occurring, instead of restricting itself to oil producing regions of the globe? 5. It should. I fear our current wars do not have inherent value. If we spent even half of the sum utilized to wage war in foreign countries to build schools, hospitals and infrastructure, instead of on bullets, bombs and blood, then I believe our service would have value. 6. I believe all citizens should become involved in their neighborhood and with their local politics, if possible, for the betterment of all. I do not believe everyone should serve in a federal capacity. 7. Again, stop being assholes. Stop bombing brown people. Perhaps, realize that a military parade which will cost millions, or militarizing local police forces which will disproportionately target poor and brown Americans, or cutting social services which Americans need to survive while increasing the military budget, does not generate the type of publicity required in order to increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve.</p>
3/22/18	<p>1. Yes - Be reminded that there were many far beyond those who were drafted that were required to support the US for world war. 2. No. 3. Allow individuals to specialize, its heartbreaking when the US takes a equivalent Master Electrician and moves them to the next base as a Plumbers apprentice. Oh and btw, we then turn around and hire a contractor to do the 'Master Electrical' work because we 'don't have the talent' 6. Mandatory service requirement - ask the Israeli's.... 7. I'm uncertain, it seems that it's a fallback option for many. Recruiters should show real numbers and more high school events. Stop sending people to college who don't have a defined purpose other than so they can 'get a good job'. Those clueless individuals may wind up being your new military officers, who still don't have a clue. Now we have overpaid clueless individuals, vs. the technically adept who chose to parlay college because it's not capable of keeping up with bleeding edge needs. Bring Warrant Officer program to the USAF, this way our members can be motivated to stay in beyond their mid-career, stay technical, and be afforded the opportunity and recognition of advancement without forcing them into non-technical and lightly manned leadership positions. -TSgt USAF (not promoting by choice)</p>
3/22/18	<p>3. Pay better. Fire dead weight faster. 4. Poor pay. No choice of location. Ethics.</p>
3/22/18	<p>Selective Service to draft people with valuable technical skills is inappropriate. If government cannot hire the right people in the open labor market, government needs to change, not draft people.</p>

3/22/18	<p>The challenge with expanding national service is that almost ALL national service programs cannot fill their programs now. Furthermore, many national service programs cannot clearly demonstrate their value - they are nice, but are they truly necessary? Look at some of the largest service programs - Teach For America, City Year, NCCC - they are all struggling VERY hard to fill their spots. They all have had significant decreases in the number of applicants. Furthermore, and perhaps more disturbingly, the young people who could most benefit from a year of service (opportunity youth - youth from disadvantaged circumstances, lower incomes, minorities, disabled, foster youth, and youth at-risk of engaging with the justice system) are the ones most often shut-out from opportunities. Make no mistake - the make-up of AmeriCorps comes nowhere near reflecting the diversity of America. Even more troubling, the service "leaders" are overwhelmingly white and female. CNCS ! and the service programs it funds has not done enough to change this troubling trend - even with repeated warnings. DO NOT reward incompetency. National service is nice, but is truly necessary? Until national service can reach its true potential - and provide opportunities for those who need them the most, I am disappointed to say that now is not the right time to expand service opportunities, but rather an important time to retool and reorganize - think smarter, not bigger.</p>
3/22/18	<p>The draft should be done away with and in its place all 18 year olds will have the chance to go into military service or the peace corps, etc. They will benefit from the close knit of the services. The age limit on enlisted people needs to be scrapped. If generals can work with military into their retirement years, then so can enlisted. Enlisted must have career progression to Warrant Officer grades as well as regular officers. The enlisted should also be pilots for the military, easier to replace then the high cost of officers when they get candied out of the forces. Veterans should be recruited to do all the positions in the military services that relieves combat troops to perform the missions and the veterans do the back end jobs that keep the military running. Make incentives on retirement and perks for return to service albeit more as a civilian than fighting members to encourage and promote service to our country. As another point that relates to draw and reten! tion of military personnel is the vexed question on the Commissary service. The commissary service should be given the AAFES/Navy Exchanges, not their overhead but the actual businesses. The erosion of value products and services in AAFES/Navy Exchanges is the direct result of immense overhead costs. None of the savings that American and other businesses give to the military are realized after the doubling of the price to sell to the troops. The proceeds of the savings and expected increase in sales will more than compensate the DECCA budget where no appropriations for direct running should be incurred. An overhaul of the DECCA service should also be made as there is also a caustic management in place which stifles productivity and loyalty. Cleaning up by eliminating AAFES/Navy Exchange will be a perk that everyone using them will consider its loss before leaving the military.</p>

3/22/18	<p>1. The draft is largely unnecessary due to the active size of the armed forces and reduced dependence on raw numbers in contemporary conflicts (because of technological developments). 2. Selective service should have a option for domestic service so that a core set of workers can be used at home to coordinate the industrial and technical support systems for those abroad (should we keep the draft at all). 3. In terms of programs that are run in part or full by CNCS, a reasonable wage would attract the greatest number of skilled applicants. As someone who grew up in poverty, I found it insulting that part of the reason CNCS stipends are so low is so people can empathize with the impoverished. Poverty tourism does nothing to improve the impact of national service members, but a reasonable wage would encourage people to commit to service, especially in impoverished communities, so that they can gain skills, make a reasonable income, and bring their experience of the area to the table when crafting solutions. I think a coworking relationship with universities and colleges that allowed AmeriCorps members to receive a tuition waiver for the extent of time that they serve full time or 3/4 time as a service member. This would be better than the education award for many and would encourage a commitment to community and work experience while being educated. We could have a whole generation of college students working to serve their communities at any given time if we made this an option. 4. Major barriers are low stipends, lack of childcare resources, and lack of access to transportation. 5. Service helps connect members of the community to each other and to the community itself. By involving more people in the community to each other we develop human and social capital across the country and remove barriers faced by oppressed groups who become more humanized and familiar to those in power. It will help bridge stark divides in various political camps and tear down the artificial barriers that come up in communities that self-segregate. By encouraging communication and shared work we help craft a stronger, more diverse, and more connected community. In addition to these macro-level benefits, community service can provide valuable skills that can make people more employable and help people to become trained and educated in a broad variety of fields. 6. It could be so long as service takes a variety of forms and there are sufficient rewards for participation (i.e. full college tuition and a living wage during service). 7. Pay them adequately for the labor and commitment while also using service as a platform for moving people forward in life (connecting them to jobs or paying for their college tuition).</p>
3/22/18	<p>How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? Encourage a "gap year" of service - post high school. Every college student that I've ever worked with who has done a year of service before enrolling is 50x more prepared to be successful than peers that haven't. most people can't afford to travel or if they go right into work, they might never return to college. but a well coordinated gap year effort what had a positive association to it would do wonders 21 for them personally, and for our country. What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? Perception of military for people who at either ends of our social economic structure... either soldiers in need of structure is a misperception that a media campaign should address. Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? perfect balance of personal investment (Professional development, skill building, networking, maturity) with national investment (infrastructure, sustainability, disaster response/preparedness) Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? perhaps not mandatory, but strongly encouraged... love the sentiment "where did you do your year of service" - helps normalize it, and allows the country to value it. Our young people feel left behind, understandably so! ACE scores are playing out in their schools and young lives... generational impact when left unaddressed (poverty, school shootings, storm ravaged communities). pay now or pay later... we should invest now!!! How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? Have the Eli Segal award be equivalent to the living stipend, encourage more colleges to match it. It would be great if AmeriCorps funding weren't used as leverage when there is a change in administration, it sends the message to those who choose to choose this path of service that it's at the top of the list of least important national agenda items. If you'd like to have a listening session in</p>

	<p>upstate NY, Hobart and William Smith Colleges would be happy to host! We would love to collaborate with Campus Compact or Strive Together, two consortiums we are proud to be aligned with. Thank you! Katie Flowers. HWS Colleges, Center for Community Engagement, Geneva NY. Campus Compact VISTA Alumnae, 2000.</p>
3/22/18	<p>yes We still need military to maintain Peace in orders, We cannot be complasant . We keep our nation strong, This is a back bone of our country . We have the brightest leaders ,and We have faith with their plans. As a citizen I will support that . Value wise as A former Soldier,I would say 99% or 101% I guarantee that each one who serving and serve ,they carry that values that they learned .We are proffessional,loyal,integrity,courageous, we respect and give Honor to our Nation,FAMILY ,and t o our self as one. That Values and pride that no one can take away to our military men and women. Education " educate our younger generation about the importance of our national security ,example in Israel one of their doctrine inside their home and school to their children is how to protect their holly land. AGENCY that run education at least feed our children with readiness military for the citizen,part to curriculum on(P.E.) not to hardcore, marching and formation to start an! d minor first aid . Would be a good impact. Planting trees and why ? Because it link to their survivability and human preservation.military advertismment more on Humanitarian then add little action . " it's not how hard we will fight " But How smart we will Win in any battle!. Hope you pick up something from my Opinion Many thanks giving me opportunity to share . 22 I promote universal kindness to the entire nation and mankind. Frederick Gonzales ,Ssg,Army -Vet,</p>
3/22/18	<p>I support the campaign! For a good cause add this pls to my first comment thank you. Frederick gonzales</p>
3/22/18	<p>This is in response to 2018-03261 I personally think the time of selective service / draft has come to an end. The push for people to join after 9/11 shows that when we as a country feel threatened we will respond. If we were to keep selective service as a thing, it should include all citizens of appropriate age regardless of gender (either physically or chosen). As a vet who is a cyber security professional, I would love to use my talents in the military once again. With my age and physical aliments that go along with, I am pretty sure I could not ever get physically fit enough to meet he current requirement. I do feel, however, that for a stateside deployment in the kind of space that cyber warfare is likely to occur, I probably don't have a real reason to need to comply with the requirement. My mind is the big thing. I believe I am not the only one like this. If you could open up the recruitment to allow those of us with skills to use those skills in state side service much like we did with code breakers, mathematicians, physicists, and chemists during WW2 I think you could see a very vibrant reserve or at least ready reserve corps that could be very effective at defending our country in the cyber war space. As someone who works with the youth who would make the best recruits, I think the areas that hold them back from service include the physical requirement, the chance for deployment, the strict rank structure, and a feeling that their skills are not appropriately appreciated. My wife, who is a medial professional, was very close to accepting a commission, but ultimately got scared away because ofthe way promotions happen. After coming out</p>

	<p>of a professional world, the military seems to be unnecessary political and regimented. Pay and rank should be separated more and supervisors should be able to award good employees without a need for them to change their work duties.</p>
3/22/18	<p>1. NO. Citizens don't get to choose if their country goes to war, they should be able to choose if they want to be involved in their countries military and military efforts. I am strongly against a draft. And I strongly believe military service is not the only beneficial way to serve one's country. 2. Yes, it should be eliminated. 3. More federal funding should be put into national and public service opportunities. More funding = more opportunities. Gradually, organizations that invest in national and public service programs, like the AmeriCorps program, should be rewarded with funding to create permanent positions. 4. Military service has far more incentives than other service programs to make its program attracted to prospective participants. They have health benefits and a living wage - many other service programs require its participants to work full time and only provide a housing stipend. And these workers are doing far more immediate and likely long-term good for the interest of the country than those in the military. It's hard to see the good in spending thousands of dollars to send one military personnel to a training camp/drill knowing they'll never be used to actually defend the country, but preparing them just in case when there are people in the AmeriCorps program barely getting by on their housing stipend but working on projects that are creating immediate positive change in the country. So, money would incentives people to do this work. 5. Yes, I believe so. But it's difficult to put value on service in a society that has made having money integral to living a happy life. 6. I don't think a mandatory call to service is an equitable idea. It would require the poor and the rich to equally give their time, but it would not impact those groups equally. The poor would be at a much greater disadvantage. I wouldn't be opposed to a mandatory service requirement for households that make \$200,000+ a year. 7. MONEY - pay us more. The work is important but the pay does not reflect that importance.</p>
3/22/18	<p>1. No 2. Yes 3. Appeal to skilled individuals at every ethical level of motivation, compensation, and incentive. Look to the example of other countries who have successfully promoted a "Year of Service" in some way. 4. Income, debt, student loans, conflicting ideologies, few viable choices offering short term commitments that have a ROI in training costs. 5. Yes. All world religions espouse this, as does secular humanism when the notion of "common good" is assented to. It is not an inherently Christian nor American nor middle class nor white privileged value. There is a lack of imagination as to the forms service takes that are deeply informed by culture and personal and religious values as well as Humanistic impulse. Many leaders throughout history prioritize service and it does not need to be in opposition to systemic change, advocacy and political activism. 6. Yes— look to Dr. Martin Luther King's brilliant quote about who can serve as a response to this question. of their elders through family opportunities, civic opportunities, faith and place- and interest- and categorical opportunities. 7. Using all the technology such as Tindr and other matching and GPS apps as well as the example of their elders through family opportunities, civic opportunities, faith and place- and interest- and categorical opportunities.</p>

3/22/18	<p>Public service, such as that provided by Americorps members is essential to Americans across all states and territories. These members are not only young adults, but older individuals helping the younger generation, veterans involved with a variety of community programs. These programs help to leverage existing funds and provide services that would otherwise go away. These individuals also go to areas to help communities when hurricanes, floods or other natural disasters strike. The Americorps members receive a stipend, but then receive an educational stipend that can further their career. What is not as well known is that service performed by older volunteers can lead to a donation of educational stipend to their grandkids. Maintain the Americorps program- it's a small amount of funds that leverages millions of funds.</p>
3/23/18	<p>To the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service: Please include my comments in the public record. You are free to include my name and listed information. Regarding your possible resumption and expansion of conscription, including of computer professionals at any age, as described in: Caution-https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/02/16/2018-03261/requestfor-information-on-improving-the-military-selective-service-process-andincreasing< Caution-https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/02/16/2018-03261/request-for-information-on-improving-the-military-selective-service-process-andincreasing> A. Conscription is involuntary servitude, a form of slavery. It should have been outlawed by the post-Civil War changes to our Constitution. (I am aware that the Supreme Court did not agree, perhaps influenced by the use of conscription by both sides in that war.) B. Conscription is not needed for small or limited wars, of which we have had far too many; such wars are best fought by dedicated professional soldiers. C. The next general war or world war will be fought with nuclear weapons, targeted autonomous weapons systems ("Slaughterbots" or "Terminators"), AI and other advanced computer programs, and other weapons emphasizing technological advantage rather than raw manpower. D. If we lived in a free country with competent leadership worthy of respect and if we were fighting in a just cause, the needed people will volunteer. E. On the other hand, if the President is a liar, serial adulterer, serial sexual predator, evader of taxes on 900 million dollars, secret ally of America's deadliest enemy, and proven coward in the face of military service, then we in the population will correctly think twice about serving. 15 F. If civilian and military leadership gets us into wars of aggression or stupidity (Vietnam, Iraq in 2003 and since), wasting the lives of our soldiers and killing millions of citizens of foreign countries, then we in the population will correctly think twice about serving. Here are my direct answers to your specific questions in your Request for comments: 1. Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? No. Note that every significant war we have fought since World War 2 has been five thousand miles or more from the USA homeland of the lower 48 states. A conventional invasion of the homeland would face 300 million firearms in capable civilian hands. 2. Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Yes. Abolish registration, end penalties for non-registrants, and abolish the system. By Constitutional amendment make clear that conscription is forbidden. 3. How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? The same way private, voluntary businesses get skilled people. Pay them! Are you suggesting that the federal government, spending 4.4 trillion dollars a year, with a printing press to borrow as much money as it wants, a trillion dollars of new debt in the last six months, can't pay people and needs to enslave them? 4. What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? The main barrier is the accurate assessment of our current government by many people who make the smart decision not to serve. Not to serve leaders who do not deserve to be served. Not to have your blood poured into the sands of the Middle East accomplishing nothing with your sacrifice. (The initial part of our Afghanistan campaign had a noble purpose and was a brilliant military operation; nothing since has made sense.) Not to serve a government that is on a clear path of self destruction per fiscal measures, governance measures, and moral measures. 5. Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? A genuine willingness to risk or give one's own life for a society worth defending, because that society is a greater value than</p>

	<p>one's own life, is admirable. The courage of men and women in battle or in risky training is admirable, even on those occasions when we question a particular war or cause. 6. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? This would be another major step in the destruction of American liberty. We are already well past the point where those who fought the American Revolution, if they were alive today, would have taken up arms. So long as we have elections, that is a far better way for modern Americans to restore liberty in this country. 7. How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? Become a government worth serving with a foreign policy worth serving (as bad foreign policy gets young Americans killed) and with leaders worth serving. 16 As a computer professional, I may be one of those subject to an expanded conscription program. I will refuse conscription and will refuse to serve an American government that conscripts others.</p>
3/23/18	<p>I just read an interesting article < http://www.theregister.co.uk/2018/03/21/uncle_sam_mulls_drafting_grayhaired_hackers_during_times_of_crisis/ > that brought to my attention the Commission's interest in changing the guidelines < https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/02/16/2018-03261/request-for-information-on-improving-the-military-selective-service-process-and-increasing > for selecting technical talent in the Federal government. If I ran the US Government, I think everyone should have to spend at least 2 years serving their country in a similar way, so I am fully supportive of a "technical draft" approach to building our nation's security. But beyond that, I also wish there were more opportunities for a more senior level citizen with technical skills to join the supporting our federal government's efforts. Most articles and initiatives I see these days aim at how to recruit younger talent sooner, which is important, but I am an example of a 20 year IT professional who will soon be retiring out of my local government's service supporting law enforcement and public safety initiatives. Because of life decisions early on, I did not get to serve my country by joining the armed forces like I once dreamed of, but now I am looking around for my next "career" after local retirement and would welcome the opportunity to use those skills supporting Federal needs and initiatives. I'm not so sure those opportunities exist, even though I could easily contribute another 15 or more years in that fashion. Just a thought to look at the other end of the employment spectrum.</p>

3/23/18	I have a non profit that serves the veteran population. I am just returning from the island of Puerto Rico and I must say that my heart broken to see the suffering of the people especially veterans. Many have PTSD from war and now this disaster. There is assistance but it's not getting to the source of the problems. We would like to study the effects so that this information can help in research for remedies for elevating their mental diseases .
3/23/18	1. yes 2. no 3. require it like other countries for 3 years at least active; pay more overall, its sick that people still cant afford shit while in; guarantee no overseas, pay more if they accept possibility of overseas tour. 4. death 5. service has no monetary value; people do it because they had no other options or could not get dream job. Very few do it initial for love of their country 6. yes. We spend billions on military overall. Feasibility is not an issue for america 7. pay; and slow down on foreign tours
3/23/18	Docket No. 05-2018-01. I believe a modified form of the old style military draft should be reinstated to provide the needed manpower of the military services of the US. Many other countries have this requirement and it should be the norm in this country. Young adults ages 18 to 26 should have to serve a minimum of 2 years in any branch of the armed forces. Those adults who have the critical skills needed in this day and age to perform specialized duties could be offered monetary incentives to serve. There could be a special rank structure for those filling these critical positions, there are currently enlisted (E1 - E9), officer (O1 - O10) and warrant officer (WO1 - WO5) positions in the military, a special rank structure of say Critical Officer (CO1 - CO10). Some of the barriers to the draft would be those adults who have a criminal record or those medically unqualified. Depending on the severity of these disqualifications, some kind of waiver could be granted to a select group. Serving in the military is a great honor that the majority of Americans today don't understand. I am retired from the military with just over 20 years of service.
3/23/18	Gatekeeper, I would like to send Dr. Joseph Heck (or you Gatekeeper) a complimentary paperback of my new book Women in Combat: Unnatural, Foolish, Immoral. I have written it to the common man and it is being well received. I have no credentials whatsoever.
3/23/18	1. Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? A military draft is unnecessary given the active size of the armed forces and our reduced dependence on raw numbers in armed conflicts due to technological developments. 2. Are modifications to the selective service system needed? If selective service remains, more options for domestic and non-combat participation, such as industrial and technological support systems, are necessary. 3. How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? Provide a living wage for those who choose to serve. The inherent value of public service is not enough to attract capable individuals who are dealing with student loan debt, the inability to purchase a home, a lack of food, etc. The current approach of CNCS programs like AmeriCorps VISTA promote a culture of poverty tourism, in which many privileged individuals engage in public service without any authentic understanding of the situation the communities they serve truly experience on a daily basis. Despite poverty wages, their financial and social support systems allow for their participation in the program, but this discourages community members who are otherwise capable but cannot afford to quit their job serve. 4. What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? Major barriers include poverty wages, lack of access to childcare, lack of access to transportation. 5. Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? Service helps connect members of the community to each other and to the community itself. By involving more people in the community to each other we develop human and social capital across the country and remove barriers faced by oppressed groups who become more humanized and familiar to those in power. It will help bridge stark divides in various political camps and tear down the artificial barriers that come up in communities that self-segregate. By encouraging communication and shared work we help craft a stronger, more diverse, and more connected community. In addition to these macro-level benefits, community service can provide valuable skills that can make people more employable and help people to become trained

	<p>and educated in a broad variety of fields. 6. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? It could be if the options for service are wide and varied, a living wage is provided during service, and worthwhile incentives (such as college tuition waivers) are provided. 7. How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? Pay them adequately for the labor and commitment while also using service as a platform for moving people forward in life (connecting them to jobs or paying for tuition).</p>
3/23/18	<p>1. Global climate is unpredictable, a draft contingency is still necessary. 2. The selective service program should be modified to include women 3. Efforts on increasing training on non-military skills. 4. Standards of security clearance need to be altered not to exclude good candidates. 5. Yes, serving one's country in defense or trying to make it better are the greatest callings. 6. Necessary yes, as a why to help build experience beyond academic for young people. Feasibility is a maybe, depending on time commitment. 7. Lower service requirement, so young people can sign up for a year or two while they figure out their long term goals.</p>
3/23/18	<p>I urge you to recommend a universal national service program that: - Applies to all residents who reach the age of 18. - Does not discriminate with regard to gender, age, handicap or other considerations. - Offers nonmilitary as well as military service options, with comparable compensation plans and post-service benefits. - Is entirely funded (military and civilian components) from the same national defense budget (to protect it from Congressional starving of the civilian components). - Is open to residents who are not citizens. Thank you.</p>
3/23/18	<p>1. Military draft is still a necessary component of US National security 2. Technical people should be eligible for the draft independent of gender or age 3. Technical people drafted should still be subject to military discipline and UCMJ. 4. Technical people should be inducted as Warrant Officers.</p>
3/23/18	<p>For cyber-security skilled people, I feel it does not make sense to have an age limit to serve. These skills are learned over years of experience and the existing branches of service need the experienced workers to fill the current void in military and governmental ranks. Opening the opportunities to older workers with skills is a prudent measure.</p>
3/23/18	<p>As a nation, we're trying to find ways to encourage more students choosing STEM fields in college. I'm worried this proposed change will discourage students preferring a STEM field because it comes with a lifetime draft possibility.</p>

3/23/18	<p>1.) YES - actual draft of all males. 2.) YES - the selective service system MUST be out of reach of all special interest groups and lobbyist. 3.) implement mandatory draft of all males at 18 years of age. Offer para-military benefits to those of specialized skills who volunteer for public service and implement draft of same for critical need areas with low resource count. Perhaps those picked for draft would get more substantial military benefits. 4.) Lack of advertised need, monetary compensation of competing, private-sector interests, lack of opportunity to serve due to age. 5.) Absolutely. Being a contributing part of a team with a common goal always creates a self-worth value to those involved. Working in a regulated environment and being held accountable for fulfilling responsibility teaches someone skills that will help them succeed in life. 6.) YES - I still maintain that America was at its strongest when males were required to serve our country and females were permitted to do so voluntarily. I staunchly believe that is the model to follow. 7.) Truthful advertising in all media venues as to how a young person can benefit from serving their country would help. It should also communicate how serving will help the country. Focus should be on areas of interest to those young people and should highlight the positive aspects of volunteering. Mandatory service should be required but volunteers must be rewarded for taking that step. It may also help to spread the draft age out to a period of 18-20 years. Those volunteering at 18 would benefit more than those who were drafted at 20.</p>
3/23/18	<p>Preface: Former Navy STG3(E-4), current BS in Information Systems, pursuing MS in Computer Science soon, employed in a large SOC. 1. Yes, and this should include women as well. A small change I'd like to add, is that registration should be automated and doesn't require individuals to sign up. 2. As noted above, women should be required as well. 3. The simplest answer is a higher salary and more credential/education benefits. The interest is there from many individuals, myself included. I've considered FBI, CIA, NSA, and Army. The Army is recently piloting a program to hire those with cyber security skills and graduate degrees into O-2. However, the O-2 pay along with BAH and 4 years of being in still didn't compare to my starting salary in the private sector. If O-4 is an option soon, I may have to reevaluate. The FBI starts us off so low many of us don't consider them, even though the daily work is something we could be proud of. What they pay for being based out of DC is not nearly enough. The NSA hiring process is so long that many of us move on to private sector by the time we hear back from them. Other than increasing salary, you could invest in the younger generations. Perhaps a specialized year long high school with a follow on commitment of 4 years in the service? 4. Other than previously mentioned salary issues, the military doesn't truly allow choice. I went to my recruiter with the intent of doing IT (security was an afterthought then), and at MEPS was told STG or Corpsman. That's not a choice. When I was leaving, I said I would stay if given the chance to crossrate into IT or CTN, I was given neither (my ASVAB qualified me). 5. It does, it makes us feel like our job is that much more critical. We are protecting others, instead of just helping the business make a profit. 6. Necessary? No. Valuable? Yes. Feasible? Only if you are ok with the benefits of the first four years being taken away. I believe most of our citizens would be in better place if this were required, but the sheer cost doesn't is a hindrance. 7. Easy. A training simulation game, say. Kids like games more than anything. The CyberStart offered by SANS was a start, but it needs to go further. Start with the basics, teach web development, teach Linux, teach python, teach databases. Then increase towards learning various security based skills: Authorization and Authentication, SSO, emulate SOC operations, Malware analysis, everything you can think of. But games are more fun if it is competitive. This could be a leader board, or some other way. It would also be helpful to allow players to download completed work for the game. Perhaps to enhance their portfolio or dig deeper than the game allows. I'll end with: Train the people, then they will come. Pay the people, then they will stay.</p>

3/23/18	So let me get this straight... you want to require people like myself (with cyber and technical skills) to place themselves on a registry (selective service) but you don't want to do the same for guns and their owners. What a crock?!?!? More young people would be happy to join the military if they knew they weren't going to be sent to die just so some rich folks can further line their pockets. We see through your thinly veiled attempts at hiding the real reasons for wars. We aren't buying it. As for selective service... I think EVERYONE should have to spend their first couple years of adulthood in some sort of service to their country. They should, however, have the option to join the service branch of their choosing (military, non-profit, government positions, community service, infrastructure building/maintenance, peace-corps-esq-type organizations, and I'm sure I've missed a bunch of others). ...but back to the original point... you cant possibly sell a mandatory placement on a registry based on skills while refusing to even consider a nationwide gun registry. That's just asinine.
3/23/18	There are a number of us ex-military naval intel (CPOCT Royal Navy) that have the skills to train individuals (Im a SANS Cyber Guardian red/blue, CCIE Security, OSCP, CISSP, CISA etc) creating some magical stuff out here (See RedSpy365) with potential huge AI offensive/defensive machine learning aspects that would love to work with the military to give them the tools and to help train individuals for national defense at no charge. All you have to do is point us in the right direction.
3/23/18	In response to recent developments on the conscription of technical talent, including those with computer-oriented skills, regardless of sex or age in the interest of leveraging selective service to beef up National Security, this response is specific to that interest. As a former military member of 22 yrs of service, there would need to be changes made in order to use successfully integrate individuals in the military. This particular program to add to the talent pool regardless of age or gender should also include not adhering to the same physical fitness levels as the rest of the active duty components. This should be considered an elite cybersecurity team. That said, exceptions will need to be made. These individuals that you hope to recruit don't typically fit in the military. You can't put them through normal boot camp. In fact, it would make sense to have a Cybersecurity Command. This elite group would be part of a special division of that command.! A 10 day course, perhaps. One suited just for this team. If you hope to have a fighting chance against the Chinese and Russians and recruit the best cybersecurity hackers, you will need leadership that speaks their language and an incentive. Best of luck
3/23/18	First allow some to volunteer for such work. Direct Commission can work if given more flexibility. For example, I'm a 42 years old Senior Security Software Engineer of large corp. Gladly would serve the nation, but barred to do so by age. If I can join the National Guard then you will have my skills for years to come and can even deploy me if necessary, without forcing someone that might not be willing to do so.
3/23/18	1. No, the all-volunteer force is sufficient. 2. I can not speak smartly on this. 3. Pay them appropriately and give them an incentive to join other than "it is an honor to serve your country and put on the uniform" because I am here to tell you that will not work. Think about what you are asking from individuals and your audience. Why would one work for an organization known for STRICT standards, known for putting units before self, and known for having individuals sacrifice so much of their personal life when said individuals can work from home, get paid much more than they would ever get paid in the government, AND not have to deal with the STRICT military standards. This is a no-brainer (in my opinion) and it should not surprise anybody why there is a lack of talent in the government realm. Doing the same thing and expect a different outcome will not work in my opinion. I \ am glad the government is asking the public about there thoughts and is serious about the matter. 4. Refer to the number 3. 5. Yes. There is much value and honor for serving your country. 6. No, mandatory service is not the answer. An organization should get people who WANT to be in the organization. If you have people FORCED to join your organization no matter how much training is provided to the individual their heart will not be in it. Ten people who are

	<p>forced to do something most likely will not outperform people 5 people who WANT to do something. Quantity does not add value. Quality does. 7. Unsure about this.</p>
3/23/18	<p>People are not losing faith in the Military; they are losing faith in the Government. Until you can get the United States united again, you will have a decreasing interest in military, national, and public service. united again in terms of believing that the government is for the people, not against them; that Government officials are here to server the people, not to serve themselves. With that I say good luck. Forcing young Americans to server, in the current condition, would be disastrous. Mandatory service when the US has its act together as a nation is feasible as it would provide valuable skills for a new generation and build on the love of this country. One of the biggest challenges you will have in attracting seasoned/experienced cybersecurity professionals is the pay gap. While I would seriously consider serving my country again, the amount of pay I would lose would be significant. But if you made the call to Americans for help and opened the doors to those of my age (45), I think you might be pleasantly surprised by those who step up who have the skills you need. Start by opening to/looking for veterans/prior public service (disabled as well) who have the skills in demand. Clearly define what you are looking for (SOC operations in a specific location, remote analysts, traveling trainers, boots on the ground, fly in for 30 days/home for 90,) - think unconventional opportunities - Does it have to be in uniform 365? Why does it have to be in Langley or Washington? Why can a remote analyst not be located in small town Indiana? Build those unconventional enlistment/participation programs and they will come. Create opportunities to serve that help out both our country and the person who has planted roots. Let Americans see that there are great opportunities in public service. I know I would seriously consider an opportunity to serve again in a program that is customized.</p>
3/23/18	<p>If you haven't already done so, I would encourage you to blast this request out via Social Media. With regards to # 1, whether a military draft or draft contingency is still necessary for national security, I would suggest it would not necessarily yield the essential traits needed in a soldier_ commitment and selflessness. Those military whom I have been privileged to encounter over the years, stand out. They have unique qualities_a greater sense of purpose, patriotism, loyalty, and steadfast. 2. I am not sure. I would encourage, an initial call for enlistment first rather than 'drafting'. I don't think the Selective Service should be done away with. I do think that there should be significantly more support/ funding to assist those post-deployment. 3. Establish a reputation as a 'high-trust culture'. Millenials as noted in a 2017 Forbes magazine article on retention noted: Chinwe Onyeagoro, president of Great Place to Work. "But superficial changes like these won't improve retention among Millennials unless they're accompanied by managers making authentic connections with employees, linking their work and contributions to a broader purpose, providing access to a diverse array of learning and development opportunities, and demonstrating fairness in promotion and advancement decisions. These deeper leadership behaviors and cultural practices affect how Millennials feel about their place in the organization and how long they choose to stay." http://fortune.com/2017/06/27/best-companies-millennials/ 4. I suspect barriers to participation in military, national, and public service are based upon: a) misconceptions about the state of technology employed at federal and government level, b) perception that there is a lot of red tape and it is difficult to make a tangible impact. c) perception that salary's are not competitive and cost of living and paying for house/car/insurance/school loans doesn't make the option feasible. d) they want peace and not military engagement and don't realize that proactive measures can advert wars. 5. I will say this depends. If it is in defense of our borders and freedoms yes. This is where I believe there is a sticking point, I suspect they don't want to go engage in battles in foreign lands where there</p>

	<p>has been much loss and not much change. In particular, where things such as in Afghanistan, where boys can be abused, a soldier goes to the lads defense and is penalized. Cultural traditions conflicting with our moral, honor doesn't yield inspiring others to serve. 6. Not going to be effective until a stronger sense of patriotism is fostered in our nation. Leveraging families and communities where there has been a strong tradition of service to the military, etc is a good place to begin to understand what it takes. 7. Start young. Support education. Encourage service members to get actively involved in communities as role models. National/public leaders must be more approachable</p>
3/23/18	<p>One more thing, I am a Mom with an engineering degree, who left the work place to raise my children. I know there are a significant number of college educated, resourceful adults ready to return to the workforce with solid management skills and decent technology backgrounds. The path has to be created in a way that enables them to transition in. Many I think have the 'traits' of maturity, loyalty, and selflessness.</p>
3/23/18	<p>Having worked at the AF CERT I firmly believe that until you change the culture and mindset of the military and civil service leaders at that level, nothing you do is going to make any difference. When the emphasis is on "kingdom building" and the next promotion, security takes a backseat.</p>
3/23/18	<p>Attempting to force unwilling technical experts to serve will only lead to two outcomes. At best, substandard performance by unwilling people there to serve their time, in a field where peak performance is key. At worst, it will lead to security vulnerabilities caused by having disaffected draftees working on the security of the nation's most crucial information systems. Drafting security experts is not a good idea short of a grave national crisis.</p>
3/23/18	<p>Conscription is slavery. You really don't want people under duress working on your systems. Perhaps you should stop pissing off the world so you don't need a war mentality. Mandatory "service" would cause riots, etc. Stick to flyover christians who are contractually obligated to be mercenaries for a while. Military needs to get a clue that the population is not theirs to abuse.</p>

3/23/18	<p>1. Yes draft is still necessary component! 2. It should be modified to Not include illegal alien males because that is not safe to have non loyal law breakers in such roles AND it should include women because they get all the rights but no draft? Not fair. Both must be included. BUT any policies which place women in combat team with men should be rescinded. They can have other roles but politics is not more important than lives. Let's admit there are differences. No women in combat. 3. 4. 5. I never served but people I know who served have a certain good quality to their personalities that civilians don't have. Why you can't fake being a veteran to a veteran. So the self discipline and honor and dedication I've seen in veteran I think has inherent value to the people who served. Does it have value for the American people and America? Of course so much they are laying down their lives for us and America. 6. 7. Us can increase participation in such things by restoring a sense of national pride and Civic pride by cutting funding from the massively wasteful and usually Marxist programs at universities and schools. Can they give scholarship to those who served? I hope so. Can they make you sign up for selective service as a condition of getting a government loan? If for citizens. But then again why are non citizens getting govt loans. Stop things based around all people are the same some identities are victim n some are oppressors and it's th! e fault of capitalism America an white people. As Hillsdale college pointed out in the last election more millennials voted for Sanders an open avowed socialist in the primary than for both Trump and Clinton combined. Socialist! When America is about the individual and demonstrated the success of the market economy. Insist immigrants assimilate to a central national American identity which they will see around them once the schools Marxist programs are defunded. This identity politics game at the schools will stop once the kids start to think of themselves as American. America is supposed to be your "race" not your ethnic idntity. We need a TV and internet station where all viewpoints are welcome since YouTube and social media now censoring and TV stations Monopoly progressive anti America. A tv and internet station with an American viewpoint which will lead to increased interest in serving because more love for America. Once kids realize there are many more who also love America they will be more likely to consider serving. A last thing I please do not go to war for the wrong reasons. Our service men and women are precious and should be put in just wars. An it's not fair to occupy somewhere if you didn't declare war AND the other side cannot surrender since you di! dn't declare war. A lot of soldiers from Iraq felt that was wrong. Thank you</p>
3/24/18	<p>Get rid of selective service or let people register regardless of their age. Or re-register if their registration was lost. Example: I am 48. Back in 1987 I filled out and mailed in the little green registration card like I supposed to do and thought I was registered. Apparently it was lost in the mail like so many things that were lost in the mail in the 80s. It wasn't until some 30 years later when I was filing for financial aid that I was told I was not registered. I had gone my while life thinking I was registered and had even checked the 'yes' box on applications when asked if I was registered and no one told me different. I would gladly register if I was able to now, but after age 36 you are not allowed to register.</p>

3/24/18	<p>As a patriotic citizen of the United States, as a Quaker, and as a conscientious objector to war in all forms, I am deeply and personally troubled by the myriad problems with draft registration and believe that it should be abolished with all due speed. There is simply no doubt that our country's draft registration system has been a failure and a burden on millions of men. Rather than continue this burden on men, or extend the burden to women, it's time to end it now. In the Selective Service's own 1999 annual report, former director Gil Coronado, wrote, "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 registrationage immigrants, citizenship. Unless we are successful in achieving high registration compliance, America may be on the verge of creating a permanent underclass." That was 18 years ago, and today there are even more restrictions and penalties for men who haven't registered. In many states, registration is linked with access to driver's licenses and state IDs, threatening access to the ballot box for people of conscience. If a man fails to register, for whatever reason, many of these penalties stay with him for the rest of his life, even though he will never have been charged, tried or convicted of any crime! This is not only unconstitutional, it's antithetical to the values we hold dear in our democratic society. Even on its stated, practical purpose, Selective Service registration has proven to be a failure in the U.S. When given a choice, most men don't register. SSS reports only 88% compliance with registration. That means millions of men are permanently burdened and punished by failing to register. 66% of those who registered did so by coercion, not will, as the law instructs, either to get financial aid for college or to get a driver's license. Coercion by the government like this is simply wrong, unconstitutional, and ineffectual. In addition, the cost of Selective Service registration exceeds the \$25 million Selective Service budget. Schools, for example, have the burden of verifying registration compliance for students, increasing their administrative costs and the tuition burden on young people. Various state laws requiring registration compliance for state benefits (such as employment) add costs to a state's budget, yet offer no return on the investment. Extending the registration to women would increase those costs. What is particularly troubling about all this disfunction is that draft registration is unnecessary to begin with. After the terrorist attacks on 9-11-01, the military had more than enough volunteers. Activating the draft was never seriously considered. Alternatives to this burdensome system currently exist. In the unlikely event of a "sudden need" for more military personnel, it is reasonable to assume that, with today's technology, a pool of names could be generated quickly and easily for a potential draft (and more cheaply than the current ongoing registration). Rather than increase the numerous problems that exist with our current Selective Service System by extending the registration to women, the wise choice is to end the registration of all people. If the Commission finds that registration has value and should continue, I believe they must require Selective Service to provide a pathway for people to register as conscientious objectors, and restore full rights to all people of conscience by overturning lifetime punishments. Doing so would enable people of conscience to be both in compliance with the law and true to their conscience. Though failure to register is a felony, the government has not prosecuted anyone since 1986. Almost all of those who were prosecuted were conscientious 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>
3/24/18	<p>For cyber professionals, the biggest thing you can do is provide education and opportunities for exposure through public schools. We have millions of poor, undereducated students in our country who would welcome an opportunity to learn and improve their standing through military service. Provide the education, and then provide the incentives to join. Allow people joining to specify their service to a type of work, such as computer work. If they could also choose whether to work within the US only vs. traveling to war zones, that also may help encourage some more cautious participants. Some</p>

	code of ethics as well, such as not to intentionally bring down life support systems at a hospital, for example. Serving often means losing control over your body and actions, giving some limited control back to the individual may help.
3/24/18	I am a cyber security professional with 14 years experience dealing with breaches in the energy and financial sector. I am supportive of a draft of technically skilled citizen during extreme circumstances. I'd also like to see a volunteer program established for citizens of any age to serve their country outside the private sector in a way that is similar to reservists. I'd like to be able to spend 6 months or a year away from my employer and still have a job when I get back. During that "deployment" I would love to work on DOD cyber problems or aid in defending critical infrastructure. Many such activities could likely happen without relocation. This would likely help my career by giving me greater insight into how other organizations function, but more importantly this would make more volunteer resources available to advance national defense objectives (possibly reducing the risk of need to use a "cyber-draft" at all).
3/24/18	I speak as a Vietnam Combat Veteran of the Tet Offensive of 1968. I am Canadian volunteer, who also served in the Canadian Army for six years prior to enlisting in US Army. I am a firm believer in the draft. In Vietnam, most of the guys in my platoon were draftees, and they all fought with valor. The only man who refused to go back to the field was a RA. If we look at how our country is today, with no respect for the President, school teachers, police or anyone. This is today. If America had a draft they would have at least a modicum of hope for a decent future of the country. The military gives individuals a sense of belonging, camaraderie, purpose, discipline and respect for our Country, flag and National Anthem. If areas of expertise are needed in whatever technical field, there should be an immediate draft for necessary positions. I could go on. Females in combat arms, absolutely NO. The reasons are obvious to anyone who has been involved in close combat on the ground. Pilots, ships Captains, Engineers, Army Officers even, possibly, but NEVER as an Infantryman.
3/25/18	Yes, a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security. I feel that all United States citizens should be eligible for the draft, even women, because of the need to protect this country from its' foes. Lastly, I feel that United States government needs to think outside of the box when it comes to cyber security talent in that it should not be part of the military, but rather handle through the FBI or an existing state agency and then said talent can be outsourced to the military. There should be no age restriction for cyber security professionals, but maybe restrictions on those that are allowed to be outsourced to the military. This cyber security unit should be set up similar to how the army reserves are set up, but as a non military unit.
3/25/18	All persons that wish to be citizens should be required to serve at least 2 years in some capacity. Not necessarily military service but some duties that their physical and mental capacities allow them to perform. Part of the service should consist of education in the history and government of America and not just the rights of citizenship but the duties also. Their housing, rations and health should be provided as well as some pay at minimum wage. At the end of the 2yr period they will have earned the right to vote, run for and hold public office, serve as police and other protective service providers and the other benefits of full citizenship. If for any reason they decide to leave service they should not be required to stay but released immediately but without full citizenship. Of course, those serving in a national emergency may have to forgo the immediate release but that would be done as soon as possible. If sometime in say a 5yr period they wished to be reinstated they could! be if they were still eligible, but only once. Any criminal or other anti social behavior could result in punishment both corporal and capital depending on the severity of the action. Imprisonment for lesser actions would result in immediate dismissal and transfer to the prison system, federal or state. No person who did not wish to be inducted into service would not be

	discriminated against, they would still have the full protection of the law and all benefits of being an American except for those already mentioned as being reserved for those who served. Hopefully, this would result in a better informed, prepared and patriotic electorate.
3/25/18	There may be a need for a draft still however, if you want the best effort from those skilled in cybersecurity from the private sector, you need to offer them a commensurate package. They are highly sought after and you are competing with the private sector. For those who are in the mid to late stages of their careers, and highly skilled, they may not easily adapt to the rigors of the military culture or mindset. Often, these people are needed to be highly creative in order to be effective, something that is often counter to military thought and practice. Add to that, a 50+ year old would be highly unlikely to be able to maintain the physical stamina needed to operate where our military needs them most creating a high risk not only for themselves but the team they are with. If the government can find a way to make use of remote technology (thus limiting the physical and more dangerous aspects of the role) and offer similar compensation packages, then they will likely find more experienced cyber experts willing to apply.
3/25/18	We encourage our children to be involved in the community and serve, yet require them to be 18 to join the corp. Our young people, especially teens have a voice, the desire to make a difference, skills and gifts to offer in service, time and energy. To allow and encourage them to join and participate while offering them an opportunity to earn college money is win - win. Scholarships, food and fun always work with youth. I have a vision to help our high school and middle school youth find peace, calm and purpose. A creative awakening with the art of intention. I am developing a program for the military, veterans, and our youth combining art with mindfulness breathing. This will help them remain calm in a crisis and help each other. I also think that teaching them CPR is vital. Thank you,
3/25/18	Stupidest idea ever. Forcing a bunch of InfoSec professionals who likely already hate the government's broad surveillance, sigint and state sponsored cyber war programs to work in those programs is going to be a weakness not a strength. You think there is a problem now with leaks?? See what happens when you force those same surveillance hating InfoSec pros to have access to the nation's classified networks and material. Go ahead I can't wait to see how much more data would be "shared" with foreign nations. It would end up being a flood gate of data leaks being unleashed. The people caught leaking data previously were all patriots at one time. Then they came to the realization just how abusive, overarching and broad our "national security/surveillance/aggresive violations of our rights" these government programs were. Many of these same people tried to fix the system from within and failed, they had 2 choices. Leave or act. The government would have no problems hiring infosec pros if they were willing to bend their policies on facial hair, dressing style, and pay. Instead of being willing to adjust these policies and such you think forcing infosec professionals to work for the government is the best idea? Pshhhh the government has no idea how much of a problem this would create. How about you all reduce the ridiculous and overarching and abusive violations of our rights via surveillance and instead increase the pay to your current and future employees? Maybe just maybe people would have more respect for the feds. I personally have zero respect for the federal government and its en masse surveillance. Unlike those "patriots" I actually like our constitution, bill of rights and our freedom. Congress needs to get off its ass and actually fix the societal problems we have ongoing. Stop focusing on BS or sneaking in hidden bills in budgets and actually do your damn jobs. My tax dollars go to funding your paychecks

	<p>and I am tired of seeing it spent for one BS program or bill one after another. Unlike the normal draft a draft for InfoSec pros presents such a wide scale of potential damage frok leaks, traitors and such its not worth it. A soldier can impact those around them but a single cyber soldier can cause entire operations to burn, people to die or strategies to fail for thousands by simply leaking or sabotaging information. I realize you think its a good idea but its not. Its litterally the worst idea I have ever heard. People like me who already hate en masse surveillence, hate my rights being violated and hate government overarching policies wouod be the vast majority of people you would be forcing to work for you. Just think about that before you decide to include InfoSec pros. I know many many people who feel the same way. Going this route is guaranteed to cause many many more problems than issues it would solve. Seriously please consider this before enacting anything.</p>
3/25/18	<p>Selective service registration for combat is unnecessary. The United States has been able to fill its ranks sufficiently through volunteers and recruitment ever since the Vietnam War without jeopardizing national security. While much of that is due to advancements in military technology, the heart of the uniformed services is still its people. Unwilling conscripts are more of a threat to national security than a well-trained, well-equipped, and willing armed forces. That said, if the Commission finds that registration has value and should continue, they must require Selective Service to provide a pathway for people to register as conscientious objectors. CO status has a long and highly-regarded history and provides a pathway to national service that does not involve taking the lives of other human beings. In addition, the Commission should consider compulsory national service in all its forms, military and otherwise. Public service options as exemplified by the Peace Corps a! nd AmeriCorps should be allowed as avenues to fulfill service to America for those people who find warfare and violence objectionable. Service to others has value for those providing it by bringing together people of different backgrounds, races, and faiths. It also exemplifies the best of America by providing for those in need. Public messaging that glorifies personal gain, competition, and militarization creates a barrier to participation because people are led to feel that they can "make it" on their own in a zerosum game. (Note that I am not saying people should not have self-sufficiency and grit.) This creates a situation where cooperation and the value of community service are ignored or considered irrelevant. The marketplace of ideas must include a vision of cooperative engagement and low service participation rates in certain communities may be explained by feelings of low self-worth, simple misunderstanding, or lack of experience. The Commission may find! an untapped desire to participate if and when the military co! mponent is removed or made optional.</p>

3/25/18	<p>Violation of the 13th Amendment: The Selective Service System is outdated to today's standards. Millions of young men are forced to register without their consent. It is a forced job position just as slavery where service is mandated. There is no option to opt out. The 13th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution states that "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States". Seeing that signing up will lead to possible enlistment into the armed services, it can be concluded that registration is a requirement of a job position. It can be compared to an application without the desire to work. That is why registration exists because it is similar to an agreement/ contract. Once you sign it then you have to dutifully perform the actions just as stated in contract law; however, this is made under duress which the American Bar Association in its "Contract and Consumer Law (CH 9)" ! as a "suppression of your free will." There is no choice on the male here as opting out will lead to imprisonment or being charged with a felony. It is blatantly stated on the Selective Service website that it is a "felony punishable by a fine of up to \$250,000 or a prison term of up to five years." Quite a harsh punishment considering that no action was committed by the person. This type of coercion for service does not allow for a proper relationship with the government. Men are once again scared of the power that the government holds which is the opposite of what the Founding Fathers wanted. James Madison stated in the Federalist 48 (1787) that "It will not be denied that power is of an encroaching nature and that it ought to be effectually restrained from passing the limits assigned to it." Fear and Dangers of War: Many men have their reservations to signing up because of the possibility of future war. The thoughts of being killed in battle or killing others haunts the minds of the youth. Thousands have gone to war and have not come back to their families. Not only is their life gone but the potential they could have had is also gone. The Vietnam War was an example of how the government had these men's' lives in their hands. There were 58,202 deaths in the war. Of those that died, 17,725 were drafted according to History-World.org. Some of those who came home were diagnosed with PTSD because of the actions they committed and the atrocities that took place or suffered from physical trauma. Those men will be scarred for life. Inspire People: Sending harassing letters do nothing to breed authenticity and the drive to help. "Volunteering" is how we inspire. You nudge people with small actions such as helping neighbors then you encourage more civic actions . True authenticity comes from a deep place and takes time to breed. People need to see the differences they make in order to have self efficacy. Then, they will see their true worth and potential.</p>
3/26/18	<p>First, if a skills draft occurs then there shouldn't be any restrictions i.e. sex and age. However, forcing people who have marketable skills and not forcing people with unmarketable skills doesn't speak well of our system of government. You should just draft everyone. If we truly are a market driven society, then you just need to offer more money and benefits. Drafting people because you don't want to pay more money is a bit dictatorial. You would probably have more success attracting talent if you didn't have to live in a major metropolitan area. Heck, if you want to do it with a carrot, all those student visa holders first H1B visa must be to work for the government. Otherwise, they can't stay. If they can't pass a security check, then they probably should be staying anyway.</p>

3/26/18	<p>1: Yes. In the event of impending national emergency of a large scale, a military draft may be needed if indications of inadequate volunteerism are noted. 2: None noted. 3: Increased interest in serving in the military could arise by making more public pronouncements of genuine quality care for our nation's veterans and with regular public acknowledgement by the President of the United States regarding the importance of military service. This should include the need to avoid sending troops on multiple deployments due to inadequate troop strength. These multiple deployments bring the law of averages into play which increases the likelihood of serious injury as well as harms family quality of life and retention. 4: health (drugs, obesity, etc.) 5: Yes. Service has inherent value in that it helps assure a culture that values the citizen soldier as an American who understands the value of liberty and the responsibility of protecting it. It allows for a healthy cross section of the population to meet and appreciate other Americans of different backgrounds, which helps avoid or reduce polarization and class prejudice. 6: Mandatory service should be avoided and more volunteerism encouraged, but all (males and females) should be required to register for selective service and made eligible for the military draft. Females have accomplished equality under the law with the exception of an obligation to be called to serve in the military if a draft is needed. This privilege has morphed into inequality for males and in some quarters leads females (with the power of the vote) to realize they have an advantage if the draft is initiated regarding job opportunities and advancement while the men are fighting or subject to the reinstated draft and therefore effectively unemployable for meaningful career opportunities. This has even been discussed in colleges among female political science students and their professors. It may not be feasible to initiate a draft on a regular basis, unless events call for it, but it is feasible and worthwhile in modern times to have women and men equally required to register. It may in fact do wonders for male morale across the board. 7: Young Americans need to be educated about the importance of serving to help protect the American way of life and its interests. They are weak in knowledge of American history, and this could be alleviated through government media programs rather than depending on elective courses in schools and colleges. They need to be encouraged to think in terms of community rather than self only.</p>
3/26/18	<p>1. Drafts should never be a peace-time measure, lest we are doomed to repeat the failure that was Vietnam. This has not changed, and will never change. A strong democratic tenant is the volunteer army and it should remain such. 2. Yes, it should include eligible women. 3. The US government will have to attract people with these skills in new ways. They will need to be competitive with the private sector, offer opportunities cybersecurity professionals wouldn't have elsewhere, perhaps devise a work-from-home or a work bounty program in the process. 4. The commitment is long, there is a stigma against it in some communities, and the pay is not competitive with the private sector in the cybersecurity realm. 5. Yes, service to one's country is one of the most noble things a person can do. However, as I stated before, part of what makes a democracy strong is the volunteer army. The American Revolution was won with volunteers and I believe that's how we will win the cyber-race as well. 6. It is not necessary, nor would it be valuable. It may be feasible, but given my first two points, I believe I have made my case. 7. The GI bill is a proper first step. Protect this incentive at all costs. Perhaps consider changing the tone of commercials and other public out-reach. It's very war-focused, showing images of a person who is also a math major, or also a firefighter in the middle of a gunfight in the desert. To change the stigma of the armed forces, these commercials might want to highlight non-combat roles in certain cases to appeal to a different personality type.</p>
3/26/18	<p>Our 21st century military will defend us using smart, professional personnel in focused ways. The age of World War II-style massed infantry conflicts is over, thanks to technology. Therefore, even many Pentagon leaders agree, conscription is unnecessary and possibly even counterproductive. Any national service program should be: 1) Easy to join. Making full use of online resources and social media for volunteers to make informed choices. Actively using outreach programs to involve minorities and the economically disadvantaged. 2) Meaningful. Participants performing useful work, not</p>

	building “bridges to nowhere.” Skill sets matched to true needs, so talents aren’t wasted. 3) Truly voluntary. For service to have a meaningful impact on the character of citizenship, the program should not be tied in any way to student loans or other economic inducements.
3/26/18	1. I believe the military draft should be expanded to include mandatory (even if short term) service for all citizens so that they better understand the military and their mission in order to help reduce or eliminate the large volume of ignorance of the subject mostly from the left, but really from everyone in general. 3. Increasing the salaries to be competitive with the private sector would probably take care of 50% of the problem for the military / government. I would personally strongly consider a career with military/national/public service in the cyber security sector if the pay was competitive but you have to be GS-13 or GS-14 in order to even get close to what people are making in this market at <5 years out of college... For military service, I am beyond the age of latest entry (at 36 this year) and probably 25% out of the range for PFT requirements, but if those requirements were less strict, and the pay close to competitive I would absolutely consider transitioning to military cyber defense/offense as a career. 4. See #3 above 5. I believe so, it allows citizens to better understand the threats affecting our country and the hardships that military personnel go through to protect them. Most citizens these days have no clue/idea about any of this and just think of the military as the 'war industrial complex' and 'baby killers' from years of propaganda to the like, so making everyone serve would open a LOT of eyes. 6. See #1 7. I don't believe it does, since most of the mainstream rhetoric in the news and social media is dead set against patriotism and believing the US is the best country in the world (calling national pride, elitism), that most young Americans that I come into contact with believe military service and government work is a farce and not something to be pursued. When I was a kid, national pride was encouraged and fostered the propensity for people to join up, especially in times of crisis. In the last decade or two, that has flipped on its head hardcore and we are now raising a generation that has little to no pride of country, sense of duty, or sense of responsibility to work hard and sacrifice for their freedoms and instead act as if it's their entitled right with no understanding of the people that die to allow them to even be in a position to think that.
3/26/18	Modifications to Selective Service are needed. First, you need to include women in the draft. It's only fair and equal. Perhaps make some of those highly needed tech positions public service jobs with opportunities to have your education paid for by the government with X number of years of service. Also you need to look at your method of recruiting. Military recruiters are relentless and obnoxious in my experience, which is probably a huge turn off to a lot of people going into the tech sectors.
3/26/18	Regarding mandatory service and any regulation of service that would be to build the capacity of nonprofit America I have concerns. I have worked with volunteers in non-profit agencies for over 20 years. For the past 15 I have led a team of 350 RSVP volunteers in my county. The concerns for the future include younger people not willing or able to make a commitment. Many of the agencies that I work with rely on volunteers filling weekly 4-hour shifts. This allows for some efficiency in training and recruitment strategies. Another concern is that those that are required to serve more often than not do not have the motivation required to get the job done. Asking young people to fulfill a class assignment or religious requirement does seem to help them learn about the world around them and what volunteering is all about. Beyond that requirements by the court system brings volunteers that do not show up or follow through. To encourage people to serve I would focus on the health benefits and the sense of belonging and making a difference. Find your passion!

3/26/18	3. The US can increase pay for those skills, to actually be commensurate with the private sector, if it wants to attract and RETAIN talent with critical skills. The current pay structure is not conducive to those with these types of skills, given that they're often living in metropolitan environments with high costs of living, and "serving for the good of the country" won't pay your rent or mortgage.
3/26/18	1. Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? Yes, I think so. There is a time where we may need more people than actively volunteer on their own. 2. Are modifications to the selective service system needed? It is probably time that this be adjusted. We have the capabilities now to measure aptitudes in certain areas, and in a non-biased way selectively draft individuals with skillsets that are needed. 3. How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? If the military simply allowed people to take aptitude tests to determine abilities, and then guaranteed a role within a given area of interest/specialty based on those aptitudes, I think you'd find a lot more people signing up as an alternative to expensive college. If for some reason there are not enough positions available in what they targeted, you can give the individual the opportunity to either choose another category they are also qualified for, or otherwise give them an honorable discharge. Almost every young person I meet wants to be in the Cyber Security field, but do not know how to get into it. If the military was the easiest way to get into that field, they would be using it to get into the roles. However, if you sign up for the military now there is no guaranty you will be a Cyber Security professional, or an infantry man. That uncertainty prevents people from signing up. Four years seems like an eternity for young people. 4. What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? I would jump at the opportunity to serve my country if there was a way I could do so without uprooting my family and jeopardizing our reasonable standard of living. I have almost joined the National Guard on more than one occasion. As a Cyber Security professional, I am sure my skills are needed; but there doesn't seem to be any opportunities that allow me to serve that do not also put my family at risk. Military work pays considerably lower than private sector, which would make any "calling up" financially difficult on my family; and moving around at this stage in my life would have a big impact. Yet, I could easily mentor and train new individuals who just enlisted on the skills needed to do this work, and most likely could be a valuable asset with one weekend a month, and a week a year. Yet, if I sign up for the National Guard there is no guarantee that I will be sticking to my skillset, or on the front-lines of the infantry in Iraq for 6 months. These each have a very different impact on my family. Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? Yes, learning to serve is critical for national unity. If we enlisted like Israel does, I think our nation would be stronger as a result.
3/26/18	I believe it would be valuable to have a mandatory service requirement for all Americans. I think it would be especially valuable if people had to go to different communities and experience something that is outside of their normal. For instance, having people from urban cities serve in rural communities and people from rural communities serve in urban cities or serving in a different state than they grew up in. I served in AmeriCorps in 3 different programs in much smaller communities and completely different states than I had grown up in and it was an eye opening experience. I grew so much from being a part of different communities and talking with people that I wouldn't have normally had the chance to interact with. I believe requiring Americans to serve in a similar capacity will build community and empathy, while also giving people skills to grow personally and professionally. I now supervise AmeriCorps members in a diverse community and the professional/personal development training we provide is immensely valuable to our members. It is something they do not necessarily learn by going to college or in having "regular" jobs. We take the time to discuss community and national issues, while leading our members through trainings in equity/race, leadership, communication, personal strengths/values, professionalism, emotional intelligence, etc. to help them in their service and future careers as active participants in their community. I also think it helps some people figure out what they want to pursue for their career. Some members come straight from high school with an idea of

	<p>what they want to do and try it out through AmeriCorps, while some also come from college to try out a career field before fully jumping into it. Especially with how expensive post high school education options are, I think it would be very helpful to those out of high school that are unsure of what they would like to pursue and have the opportunity to get real world experience through AmeriCorps and test out different types of work.</p>
3/26/18	<p>I would love to see national service become a mandatory requirement for all Americans. I have done three terms of national service through AmeriCorps State and National and AmeriCorps VISTA. These programs completely changed my life and my belief about the importance and power of community and community change. I currently run an AmeriCorps program and I can see how important it is for fellow Americans to work beside one another and to learn about each other's home state/region. I believe that service could be a hugely beneficial piece to helping our country come together and learn to work together despite differences. In AmeriCorps, everyone is equal and we all work together to get things done. It doesn't matter what your political beliefs are...it just matters that you care about the country and you want to see all of its inhabitants do better. I fully support either the expansion of the AmeriCorps program or a mandatory service requirement.</p>
3/26/18	<p>I do not believe women should be required to register for the selective service. It should remain a choice for them.</p>
3/26/18	<p>Yes, service (like Americorp and Peacecorp) has inherent value. It gives insight into people learning what it takes to keep something going, a country, trailwork, museums etc. Military is for war. Can we get away from that and build up a strong, healthy country other ways? Surely. Mandatory service in any aspect would be an interesting venture, but who wants a disgruntled participant? - no one. I often think (rightly or wrongly) that many sign up for the military because the socialism aspect of it - pays for your education, your family benefits, health care for life. Maybe decrease these perks and increase the perks for doing Peace or Ameri corp.</p>

3/27/18	<p>Greetings: Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments as you develop recommendations to increase participation in military, national, and public service to address national security and other public service needs in the United States. Brief background info: I directed youth and student volunteering, engagement, and service-learning for Florida from 1993-2011 through the Florida Department of Education. These efforts were underwritten primarily by the Corporation for National and Community Service under its Learn & Serve America program. Learn & Serve supported engagement of students and other youth in service as a means and application of learning. All programs also provided match support from community partners. In Florida, nearly one million youth each gave an average of 50 hours of direct service, at a cost of about \$25 per student per year. I was an ex officio Commissioner for Volunteer Florida, which oversees AmeriCorps programming and statewide deployment of volunteers in disasters in Florida. Currently, I work at the Corporation for National and Community Service in Washington, D.C. However, these comments are submitted on my own time, as a private citizen, and represent my personal views. The fundamental thrust of my comments address two areas for your consideration: 1. Engagement of youth in public service to inculcate, prepare, and inspire them with an ethos for lifelong engagement via military service, civilian national service, and civic community engagement/volunteering 2. Include in any selective service/draft program an option for non-combatant service.</p> <p>Comments on Congressional Directives: (1) Need for a military selective service process, including the continuing need for a mechanism to draft large numbers of replacement combat troops. ? No comments. 5 (2) Means by which to foster a greater attitude and ethos of service among United States youth, including an increased propensity for military service. ? Comment: American and international studies affirm the obvious: people who are introduced to and inspired by volunteering as children are more likely to continue to serve as adults, particularly if their youth volunteer experiences were meaningful. The way to foster a greater attitude toward and ethos of service among U.S. youth is, therefore, to provide more opportunities for them to serve. It's that simple. Research indicates that youth want to do something meaningful and make a difference, and service is a powerful answer. To work, service opportunities must be where the youth are—in their schools, communities, and churches. Well-designed volunteer programs have youth practice and apply—through service—the knowledge, skills, abilities (KSAs), behaviors, and habits of citizenship we need them to learn to become lifelong servants of democracy. Despite the existence and indispensable contributions of military service and other “national” service programs (e.g., Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, Senior Corps), the U.S. does not actually have a national service program. No nation can claim to have national service when one out of four of its citizens is excluded. There are over 74,000,000 youth age 17 or younger in the U.S.—24% of the population (U.S. Census, 2010). Except for a few thousand 17-year-olds, however, none of these 74,000,000 youth participates in national service providing service. Please support a national program to engage youth in service through their schools and communitybased organizations. School-based service would have youth practice and apply academic concepts experientially in the real world to help address locally identified problems. Many of these activities could take place in the schools themselves (and thus be very low-cost) by having older students tutor and teach younger peers. The service would then help schools meet their missions as well and be in their interest to support. Community-based organizations (CBOs) and churches would help out-of-school youth address community needs related to their (non-political and non-proselytizing) missions. In such school- or community-based programs the student, school, and community needs are all met at the same time. Elements of the previously mentioned (and no longer existing but still congressionally authorized) Learn & Serve America program can illustrate how such a national youth service program might work. Small grants (typically \$2,000-\$7,500) supported local service-learning ideas to address local issues, and the goal was to help both servers and served. Students were not paid, and funds could not create paid positions. Funds instead primarily covered raw materials (kids built things for communities), teaching materials, school bus transportation to service sites, substitutes, and some extra-duty staff or teacher time. The program, which also funded service by college students, received \$35-43 million a year and engaged up to 1.5 million students and other youth annually. It was the most cost-effective national service program, and the only one in which</p>
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participants were pure volunteers—i.e., youth received no pay or stipend. Studies of impacts found that in addition to addressing local needs and helping students learn service-related academic content, there were also positive behavioral (fewer discipline referrals and absences), civic (participating students indicated they were more likely to continue volunteering than non-participants), and career preparation impacts. 6 A strength of Learn & Serve is that it devolved program implementation to the state and local levels— states and communities decided what issues to address through youth service, and in many cases the youth themselves designed and implemented programs. Learn & Serve America does not necessarily need to be revived, but elements of it can be an answer to your key question of how to foster an ethos of service among U.S. youth: you foster it by giving local organizations incentives and resources to engage youth they are already working with in service that addresses local needs. There is a cost for this, but it is a pittance compared to other national service programs and it gets at the heart of the need to involve youth. You can't nationally inspire youth to serve if there is no national program in which they can actually participate. For youth brought up on service, graduating as adults to military service or other community engagement is a natural extension of what they have already done and enjoyed. By contrast, if youth do not get this experience, we will always be playing catch-up to entice them to do something as adults that is new and foreign to them. (3) Feasibility and advisability of modifying the military selective service process in order to obtain for military, national, and public service individuals with skills for which the nation has a critical need, without regard to age or sex. ? Comment: As detailed below regarding revision of the military draft, if a draft included a noncombatant service option, as exists in 15 other countries, participants' service could be focused on your identified skill and STEM areas. The individuals would then practice, apply, and learn desired KSAs through the service they do. This would be an adult version of what I proposed above for youth. As you know, there are already national service programs that can provide a template for this activity, in particular the AmeriCorps State and National, AmeriCorps VISTA, and AmeriCorps NCCC programs. I suggest you consider adding another distinct arm to AmeriCorps related to noncombatant military service and borrow from the structures, experience, evaluation, oversight, and Congressional support that are already in place for AmeriCorps (Cautionwww.nationalservice.gov/programs/americorps <Caution<http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/americorps> >). (4) The feasibility and advisability of including in the military selective service process an eligibility or entitlement for the receipt of one or more Federal benefits specified by the Commission for purposes of the review." ? Comment. The structure for stipends and benefits for AmeriCorps members, which has been thought out and implemented for 25 years, can be a model for benefits and preferences to others who do national but non-combatant service. It ensures that participants in non-military service do not get benefits that are greater than those of active service members. Details available at (Cautionwww.nationalservice.gov/programs/americorps < Caution[http:// www.nationalservice.gov/programs/americorps](http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/americorps) >). Other Specific Topics to Address (1) Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? ? No comments. (2) Are modifications to the selective service system needed? ? Comment: Suggest you consider experimenting with what could grow over time into a large-scale civilian optional alternative to compulsory military service: a non-military draft or service 7 option. Currently, 15 nations (most of them are democracies) have such a program, with wide variations in their purposes, forms, requirements, and structures: Angola, Austria, Belarus, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iran, Mexico, Norway, Paraguay, Russia, Switzerland, Israel, and Sweden. It would be worth investigating the elements of these national programs to see what might be adapted for use in the U.S. But as noted, the U.S. could do something like add a new branch to the AmeriCorps program to focus stipended volunteer opportunities with cooperating organizations that would provide members with hands-on experiences supporting military efforts and/or building skills in the areas identified in your Congressional mandate. (3) How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? ? Comment: Addressed above under Congressional Directive #2. The way to increase participation in service by individuals with skills critical to address national security and other public

service needs is to support programs that engage K-12 age youth in service activities that apply such skills, and by engaging young adults in such activities through a nonmilitary or noncombatant draft program. Participants would be engaged through organizations that submit winning proposals for programs to address local needs and that also obtain match support other partners and communities. (4) What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? Comment: For youth, the primary barrier is lack of opportunity. Most youth do not drive or own a vehicle, which is why the Commission should support programs where youth are already located-- such as schools, community organizations, and churches. There would also be a necessary financial element or incentive. These programs will not appear on their own. The federal government, if it is serious about engaging youth in service, would need to seed efforts to encourage folks to initiate programs. It should also include a match requirement that increases over time to 100% and that places a limit on the number of years an organization can be funded. Federal support would also serve as an attractor to partners who, like the participants, want to find a way to serve their country. (5) Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? ? Comment: I hope this is a rhetorical question, and there is not actually anyone who thinks there is n inherent value in service. It has been long-established that service to others meets needs of individuals and communities. In addition, programs like the U.S. military and the Peace Corps have demonstrated conclusively that through their service, the people who are serving also gain KSAs and experiences that enhance their careers and sense of commitment to their communities and the nation. There is similar research on students who do service that applies academic learning (service-learning): these students demonstrate academic, behavioral, civic, and career-experience gains while at the same time helping their schools, other students, and their communities. From barn-raising to pitching in during disasters, service to others is a defining American trait and one the U.S. government should continue to tap, foster, and inspire. (6) Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? ? Comment: I do not think service should be required for all Americans. Making someone do something they actively do not want to do is often a recipe for sowing dissent, disorder, or rebellion. However, it is well-established (see previous bullet) that service is valuable, and so I believe the OPPORTUNITY to serve should be available to all Americans. The military and national service programs make this offer to the majority of Americans, but youth—our future—are thoughtlessly excluded. Create good 8 programs and young people will serve and inspire others to do so as well; it will not then be necessary to try and force everyone to do so. How feasible is it? I don't think a universal requirement is feasible, anyway, both for the above reasons and because we lack the infrastructure to put it into place. Instead, I suggest you pilot a couple of program models and then grow what works. Over time, more and more young adults will have the opportunity and incentive to participate. (7) How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? ? Comment: By increasing the opportunities for them to do so, as addressed above. Virtually everyone would like to service this great country, and you can provide the opportunity for millions more to do so each year. Best wishes in your work, and thank you for your consideration.

3/27/18	<p>With regard to item number 3, "How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation?", I would like to see a review and analysis of medical barriers the prohibit entry, or re-entry, into the armed forces of the United States. From my own personal experience: I am a veteran of the United States Air Force, and shortly after my voluntary separation from active duty, I was diagnosed with psoriasis. Following my separation, I spent time in government and the private sector in various cyber-related roles - from policy and planning to auditing, incident handling and response, and cyber threat hunting. In addition to the aforementioned skills, I deepened my academic knowledge by completing a Masters of Science program in Information Security and Assurance. Several years after separation, and believing I had critical and necessary cyber skills to offer, I attempted to join the United States Navy Reserves as a Network Warfare Officer. In light of the knowledge and skills I was bringing to the table, as well as my existing veteran status, I was quite surprised to be turned away due to my psoriasis diagnosis. In fields that are critically manned or provide critical support to the National Defense of the United States, especially for those positions found specifically in National Guard or Reserve components, I would like to see a re-evaluation of medically disqualifying conditions. I do not believe that my psoriasis diagnosis would prohibit me from serving the nation in a reserve status any more than it prohibits my day-to-day ability to get up and go to work.</p>
3/27/18	<p>1-Not necessarily - Military can still train personnel who show aptitude to learn cyber-security skills, and can waive age limits in reserves without resorting to a change in the service draft program. 2-No 3- Consider a new type of cyber-security military reserve unit for each branch, or perhaps a consolidated one under NSA/DOH, whereby individuals older than the current reserve age requirements can join and serve in that capacity. There could be a training track that can determine: A - if some individuals still have the physical capability to server in certain operations within possibly dangerous engagement environments without physical limitations B - or if they can serve as support operations in non-engagement environments due to physical or health reasons. Either way, the military could benefit from experienced, older cyber-security professionals to help support or serve in U.S. operations. 4-For many professionals, barriers can include fear or perception of the military culture, fear of losing job and pay from private sector jobs (let's face reality—while against the law, some companies do punish or layoff reserve military personnel due to absences, and disguise the job termination under other reasons just as they discriminate civilians in hiring or termination events), and fear of being deployed elsewhere in the world when they have family and responsibilities at home. Additionally, they may fear losing higher private sector pay and benefits while serving (whereby they receive lower military pay), they may be fearful of longer deployment engagements from home/family, and some folks in security just don't trust our government or military. 5-Definitely—For many, there is still a pride of serving our country, a desire to protect civilians, and being part of something larger to help others who cannot stop attackers in those types of engagements. Even for older professionals, those things still matter, but for a lot of folks, once they get private sector pay and benefits to pay the bills, it is hard to give up. 6-Don't think so due to health issues as folks get older and due to demands of family as well as some other issues mentioned in response to question 4. People need to WANT to serve in the cybersecurity realm, or we open ourselves up to possible insider threats from disgruntled individuals. 7-Perhaps joint cyber-security training programs for high school and college students, better recruitment at high schools and colleges within cyber-security programs, and enticement programs to offer positions with various federal agencies, after a term of military service, to encourage some trained individuals to stay with government service, and possibly consider participation in the military reserves. Also consider slightly higher pay for military cyber positions--cost of a single fighter jet could be worth its weight in gold if used instead to hire multiple teams of highly trained cyber-security personnel.</p>

3/27/18	I have been in information security for over 20 yrs - I also wish I had signed up for service when I graduated HS. I would love to serve my country and would still sign up today if I could. My daughter was looking into a program with the arm and airforce for post-graduate schooling and service - I was totally supportive. I would support a draft for younger people and even older people who possess certain skills (like myself). I would even volunteer at this point to help our national security. Either in the field...or with our cyber defense. I have been DoD TS cleared but was not picked up for a job with any of the 3 letter agencies due to where I live. So to directly answer these questions more directly - 1. Yes - in my opinion, the draft should still be something that our country considers in times of war. 2. Depends on the modifications. Trans-gender - NO. Gay - ok. Pot - maybe. But everything else should be as strict as it is today. Physical and mental aptitude. 3. Stop discriminating on age. At 46 - I bet I could still go through Bootcamp. I would absolutely go. But b/c I am "over-the-hill" I can't even sign up or even volunteer - at least for the branch that I would want to go to. 4. Slow process for public sectors and individuals to participate. 5. Service absolutely does. Provides structure and the ability to learn (for the younger ones) how a chain of command works. How leadership is born and honed. How to give something more to others that don't have and its not about you - its about the mission, your team and your freedoms. 6. Yes, Yes and Yes. Look at Israel! 7. Make it mandatory give people the opportunity to not see a war if they choose to opt out of war service.
3/27/18	Service members deserve the best but do they have to have the most expensive?
3/27/18	Could we as individuals willingly give service members a place of rest and board, similar to what the British did in prolonged conflicts. Only difference is that we have a choice and know the risk involved
3/27/18	Thank you for convening a commission to address this important issue. At a time when many people are asking for more freedom to obey their conscience and religious morals it is absolutely essential that boys who are 18 that have a religious objection to carrying a weapon or participating in war have a way to opt out of the registration for the selective service if it violates their conscience and sincerely held religious beliefs. At the very least they must have the option to register as conscientious objectors. Thank you for your consideration.
3/28/18	The question of the continuing utility of the selective service came up several times when I was head of the Force Structure and Investment Branch at OMB. I successfully made the argument that there were three justifications for the selective service: as a military capability, as a signal to the American people about their responsibilities for national defense, and as a signal to potential adversaries about the latent power of the United States. The need for the selective service as a military capability seemed to be declining in the late 2000s because prospective adversaries were regional powers for which the existing US active duty and reserve forces seemed to be adequate. (That may now be changing with a focus on competition with great powers such as Russia and China, which could entail a much longer and bigger war than regional powers like Iraq or Iran.) However, the value as a signal to both the American people and to adversaries had continuing value, especially since the annual cost for the Selective Service System was only about \$24 million. To be sure, neither of these are strong signals, but they are something. Further, eliminating registration seemed to send the wrong signal: that Americans were less responsible for their security and that America was reducing its potential military power. Indeed, eliminating registration was criticized internally as a "classic millennial perspective", desiring the benefits of citizenship without the obligations.
3/29/18	I have no issue with extending the age limit for this. Since being prior military, Israel already does this.

3/29/18	<p>1. No. Eliminate the Selective Service System, which functionally preys on young people who are wishing for a better life with more opportunity. 2. If the forced draft system must be maintained, then A) restore the full rights of people who have not registered with the Selective Service, and B) officially allow registrants to designate themselves as Conscientious Objectors. 3. Overhaul public education, increasing funding dramatically to raise teacher pay and benefits (to improve qualifications, retention, and respect) while strengthening curricula to focus on STEAM and practical skills including critical thinking, conflict negotiation, public service learning, and anti-racism. 4. Forced hierarchy and subordination, glorification of violence and power-over, lack of collaboration and creative peacemaking. Lack of service ethic. Lack of privilege, which makes survival a focus over social engagement. 5. Service to fellow humans, natural environment, and public infrastructure (highways, bridges, parks, etc) has deep inherent value: finding commonality, cultivating humility, making privilege transparent, working for justice, strengthening public works, learning practical skills. 6. Mandatory military service is not necessary, valuable, or feasible; forcing people to train in the ways of war and to engage in combat is counterproductive to goals of positive international relations and global economic and ecological viability. 7. If the US wants to encourage young citizens to serve, then the focus must be public service, not military service. Any alternative service program must be run by a civil agency with the same benefits as military service. Creating more intentional public service programs and opportunities could create a more skilled workforce, a more engaged populace, and a nation that is more respected within the global community--which in turn promotes national security in terms of international relations, sustainability of resource consumption, and quality of life for all residents.</p>
3/29/18	<p>1. The Structure should be maintained to ensure if it needed can be initiated. 2. Study should be completed and revised as needs change. 3. Unsure 4. Salary benefits and returning to nonpublic service program. 5. Yes, skill development, network. 6. OSD places requirements based on fiscal and mission requirements cost would have to be funded by Congress. 7. Adopt USMC Branding</p>
3/29/18	<p>Hello, I was sorry to have missed the comment opportunity at Harrisburg, PA a few weeks ago. I am glad that you made room on your Website to gather comments. I would like to express my concern for people who are opposed to participation in war efforts due to conscience or moral objection. Sometimes this is something that a person grows up being aware of, for example if their church taught that killing people is wrong. Sometimes, it is something that a person becomes aware of as they are coming of age, as they develop their moral identity. Sometimes, a person isn't aware until they are in a situation of killing others or witnessing the taking of lives, such as happens after someone joins military service and finds that they cannot continue. All of these are valid paths, and these people must have an opportunity to identify themselves as conscientious objectors. There currently is not such a way to identify oneself, only that young men are required to register for selective service. This is a great weakness in our society, that those who cannot with a clear mind and spirit and heart serve in the military, have no way to! make that clear from the start. I would think that it also makes for inefficiencies in the processing of those registrations as well. I am also distressed at the emphasis on military intervention which our nation continues to pursue. This places great demands on recruitment for military service. What if there was greater emphasis on diplomatic efforts, and building coalitions, and understanding other cultures and honoring other countries' rights? Imagine if there was a big demand for these skills, and we put even half as much money into training people for peace as we put into preparing them for fighting and killing. And then there is the cost of rehabbing them after they are in combat situations, and suffer from PTSD, physical injuries, and Moral Injury, although admittedly many of those costs are not borne by the DoD, but our society at large. One of the most difficult parts of the current system is that it favors using 18-year-olds, who I suppose are more easily trained perhaps than those who are even 20 or 21. But who even knows what they are stepping into at 18? As there is more need for special skills or training, perhaps shifting the search for entry-level service members a couple of years older might be helpful. As far as a mandatory service requirement, unless there is a large opportunity for non-military service, there are going to be many who are ill-suited (physically,</p>

	<p>mentally, psychologically) for service. Requiring people to serve in the military doesn't make them automatically want to serve, or able to serve faithfully. This would only increase the strain on the already-overburdened VA system. If there were large efforts to create avenues for non-military service, it's possible that a mandatory service requirement would benefit the USA. But really, we need to seek peace.</p>
3/30/18	<p>I write as someone who applied for and was granted conscientious objector status in 1968 and volunteered for and completed two years of alternative service as a caseworker for the NYC Department of Social Services in central Harlem. I believe that service in the public good has inherent value, as it can enable contributions to a community beyond one's self, especially if that community is in need. That said, I do not think coercive registration helps foster that value--it must be chosen, not imposed, most especially military service. In this spirit, should the Commission find that registration has value and should continue, it must require Selective Service to provide a pathway for people to register as conscientious objectors, and restore full rights to all people of conscience by overturning lifetime punishments. Doing so would enable people of conscience to be both in compliance with the law and true to their conscience.</p>
4/2/18	<p>I do not think military service should be mandatory unless we are in armed conflict, then all should be draftable and taxes must be raised to pay for the armed conflict. I think all 18 year olds who are not going to college should do national service such a VISTA or other community service for one year. If they do not stay in college or when they are graduated, then a year of National Community Service should be mandatory.</p>
4/2/18	<p>1. Yes. Though a World War has not taken place recently, this does not preclude the fact that one could occur. 2. Yes. Women need to be included. 3. Remove the age restriction(s), allow both sexes, create intern programs for High School students, Scholarships for college (or Cyber GI-Bill), extend better healthcare to families, sign-on bonus, offer work location choice, office status in military based on cyber skills (even if no college work exists). 4. Stereotyped red-tape of any government agency. Cyber skills require latitude and do not work well with "this is how we have always done it" methodology. 5. Yes. Retirement is excellent. Training can surpass anything in the private sector. Give the ability to people that don't possess physical attributes needed for ground warfare to still perform patriotic duty. 6. Yes. Mandatory 2 years of service should be required prior to college. 7. Mandatory 2 years of service should reduce college by 2 semesters which reduces cost to students.</p>

4/3/18	<p>Hello, I am in favor of compulsory national service for citizens who graduate high school or complete their secondary education. I feel that going to university can wait 2 years (I've got 2 college degrees, the second almost 20 years after the first). I am in favor for not just military service, but also community and national service to construct and improve our infrastructure or participate in the Peace Corps or in other non-military ways. I believe that kids today are not exposed to enough people different from themselves, and this will better prepare them for the real world where you have to deal continually with people different than yourself. It should also improve the quality of our political discourse as everyone will be exposed to viewpoints other than their own and learn to deal with it in appropriate ways. For non-military service, it should commence a couple months after high school and last 2 years. For military service, those who elect (and are qualified) to go to college should attend basic training before their first semester in college and join the ROTC program at the college they attend, otherwise military service should start the summer after high school graduation. No deferments for going to college, everyone from every corner of society serves. If you want to get more STEM people into the gov't (doubtful in the current political climate, but anyway), make it easier for STEM graduates to shed their (often substantial) student loan debt if they work for the gov't. Also, make getting a gov't job less about who you know (I know several people who work at various levels of state/federal gov't - it's too often about who you know). If you want more medical doctors in rural areas, pay for their medical school in exchange for 5 to 7 years working in an underserved (rural, inner city, etc) area. FYI, drafting a 40-something person away from a 6 figure job to serve the country for far less money is a recipe for pissing off a LOT of voters (and causing a lot of mortgage foreclosures, etc because it will cause bankruptcies from loss of income) and losing your next election.</p>
4/3/18	<p>1. No, a draft is no longer necessary. US citizens feel strongly about security and have shown that they will step up in times of war or pending war. 2. Yes, I find SSS outdated and gender biased. If data is being gathered, then require all citizens and naturalized citizens to register. 3. The US can increase participation in service by providing clear benefits to those who serve that those who don't serve wouldn't otherwise receive. For instance, discounts, stipends, further skills training, or recognition can help increase service. Many of these benefits are already available but people are not aware. For that reason, create a campaign to promote military and non-military service. 4. Barriers may include lack of money, lack of a support network, and the belief that service is important. 5. Service has inherent value. Community and country can't properly function in a healthy way without service to others. All citizens have an obligation to participate in constructing this country and maintaining it. When one feels empowered through service, one can better participate in citizenship. 6. I would want to explore a mandatory service requirement for all Americans. The requirement does not have to be intensive and longterm. It can still be impactful with the right kind of planning. 7. Not only should the US build service into the social norm at a young age, but the US should work on promoting service. It's not just a way to give back. It can also provide a pathway for building skills, as well as increasing one's network of people and professionals.</p>
4/3/18	<p>One of the best ways to encourage both civilian and military reserve and volunteer service would be to offer great health care coverage to people and their families in those programs. I believe many people want to serve the public good, but the impact on them, their families and their careers is just too big. By taking one of the major uncertainties out of their lives, they would be much more willing to do extended gigs.</p>

4/3/18	<p>3, 4, & 7: The development of an additional special branch of uniformed service specific to the needs of cybersecurity. This branch should be elite and, particularly at the outset, very small. The prestige of acquiring a position within these ranks should be of significantly greater consideration than its output, particularly for the first few years of existence. If possible, leaders in the industry should be consulted for the development process of how to assess new candidates, and develop assessments to ensure that those admitted have a rare and unquestioned degree of skill. This elite feature is paramount, as the government will not be in a position to pay its workers, particularly its servicemen and servicewomen on a level that is on par with private industry. Therefore, admission to the ranks should carry with the same degree of cache as a virtually impossible to get certification. Gaining entry, and improving in rank, should signal to the private sector that an individual has rarified skills and is a highly desirable employee. This Cyber Service should primarily be composed of reservists. Except for in times of national crisis, reservists should be asked to participate on a restricted basis. This will allow service members the opportunity to trade on their cache and acquire full time positions at sought after firms, (google, facebook, etc.) where their skills will continue to develop. Physical and medical requirements that would be necessary in other branches of the military should be discounted for this branch unless they interfere directly with the ability of service members to perform their duties. Should the program establish itself effectively, a ROTC program, with its scholarship and full time service requirements should be instituted to recruit young and as of yet undiscovered talent. Security clearance requirements should be minimal, with members needing to be able to obtain nothing more significant than a public trust background investigation, with optional ad hoc read ins to classified programs on an as needed and restricted basis.</p>
4/3/18	<p>I am absolutely opposed to anything which puts America's future in harm's way to support more interventions abroad. No draft, no mandatory service. If this kind of service is valuable, then it shouldn't be that hard to convince Americans to volunteer. They always have before. And if you can't promise them that their service will accomplish something, they shouldn't be forced into it.</p>
4/3/18	<p>If the Selectrive Service registration is to be continued, and I have grave doubts that it is even necessary, it is very important that if and when young people register, there needs to be an option for them to choose to register as conscientious objectors. In line with that, any alternative service chosen volunarily or by mandate , be awarded the same benefits as military service. There are many whose religious beliefs make participation in the military unacceptable and these citizens need to be able to express this at the time of any military registration procedure.</p>
4/3/18	<p>I would strongly encourage establishing youth programs for the summer breaks, and possibly winter break programs as an introduction to public service, and to foster good citizenship. A program that offered some form of wage incentive while giving high school teens a sense of confidence, and enthusiasm, and job skills are greatly in demand. I have looked for such programs, but the majority of them reach the kids too late, after they have failed high school, and have no sense of giving back to the community. A summer job teen program would inspire service, and also increase the propensity for youths to serve in our armed forces and public sectors after graduation. My son, who is 16 is looking for a job/and or incentive program doesn't have a lot of options. I worry that he will lack real-life job skills and confidence.</p>

4/3/18	I don't see national security as the main reason for having some sort of national service. I see national service as an obligation, a responsibility and an opportunity for personal growth for all citizens, I would like to see a system similar to what is used in Sweden. All young adults, register and are expected to serve their country in some manner, at some point, in their young adult years. As Dwight Eisenhower warned. It has changed the culture and character of America for the worse. With military service perceived as the highest or most important way of serving, the options and value of alternative service have been minimized. I would favor several options for national service to include a greatly expanded domestic peace corp, AmeriCorp, Student Conservation Corp and a rebirth of the CCC. While I recognize the importance of a strong military to defend our country, we have become primarily an empire building nation only interested in increasing our power, influence, wealth and access to natural resources. I am appalled at the idea of America First. We are part of a global community and it behooves us to find a way to become better neighbors starting with meeting the unmet needs of housing and medical care in our individual communities. National service with a wide range of options is a good place to start. A better housed, educated, and healthier population is an asset that can help improve living conditions world wide. Additionally service has inherent value, not only in building specific skills, but in helping build character, compassion and understanding across cultures and communities. We can do better than we currently do with the Selective Service. We can develop a National Service that can serve to build individuals, communities and our economy. Sadly serving in the military has become one of the few viable career options for poorly educated, low and middle income youth. Inspire2 serve has an opportunity to change that. Don't waste this chance.
4/3/18	Requiring public service is fine. Requiring our youth to participate in a war is not. As a nurse, I have cared for victims of war. Some have physical injuries, but all have some degree of PTSD. Enough is enough.
4/4/18	There needs to be better recourse or remedies for those who unintentionally and unknowingly failed to register for SSS. The idea that benefits and opportunities are permanently taken away from an individual for unintentionally failing to register is cruel and too far-reaching as that oversight will most certainly have a negative impact on that American for the rest of his or her life. In some parts of the country registration requirements are little or unknown. Also consider lifting the upper age limit provided the person is healthy and able. Many more would serve. Please reform or abolish this system with these ideas in mind. Thank you
4/4/18	Thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts. I truly believe that all young people need an opportunity to serve, preferably in a community of others. However, I do not believe that military service is helpful to the country. The advantage of service is that individuals meet and learn about and from people with other life experiences. This is especially helpful to people aged between 15 and 25, but is also something that elders -- particularly retired individuals, wish to do. The work which needs to be shared should be work that improves the country, whether building things, teaching, working on property - or even, possibly, working on electronic communication. It isn't the task that's important, it is the process - which needs to be group oriented, facilitated with caring about others -- and also the purpose -- which needs to both be about a good experience for those working, but also about service to the community. Everyone, particularly those born to advantages, needs to experience working in a group of individuals with broad life experiences, and with a wide variety of capabilities. I think a mandatory service requirement is a good idea IF there is no way out of it except illness or, possibly, responsibility for family members. However, it would need to allow for people of all ages to work together; having it limited to young adults is a disadvantage to them and to society.

4/4/18	As a citizen and Air Force veteran, I appreciate this commission's efforts. 1. Do we still need a draft? I think we need some sort of public service with the military only a very small part. 2. Should we modify selective service? It should be mandatory for all or a randomly selected subset. Any exemptions devalue the effort. 3. How can we increase participation? Have it solve real problems like decaying inner cities and infrastructure. 4. What are the barriers? Very few people with skills see value in fighting wars in Afghanistan and Niger. True public service would help. 5. Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? Yes: it improves our society and increases the sense of community and unity. 6. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary? Not sure. Valuable? Yes, see above. Feasible? I hope so. 7. How do we increase the propensity for people to serve? Have it solve real problems and reflect a true cross-section of our society.
4/4/18	Public service is an integral part of my life. I grew up watching my mother volunteer and I have done the same since high school. It is part of my responsibility as a human being to reach out to others in need and work to make this world a better place in which to live. Public service is something that I wish everyone could experience because it is enriching, however, I have serious concerns about mandatory service for young adults. I am afraid that public service will further deepen the racial and economic divides with which our country already struggles. I am afraid that wealthy white kids will volunteer in civilian work because their family can support them economically, while people of color will end up in the military because they can't afford to do anything else. As a Quaker, I believe that killing people is immoral. God's spirit resides in each of us, and when we kill, we are taking away something sacred. I believe that war is totally wrong. My beliefs are such that if I were a young person, I could not enlist. As long as mandatory public service means that some young people will be forced to kill, I cannot support it. If we had a level playing field, I would look at things differently. If we had good health insurance for all, if every family could make it to the end of the month without being hungry, if no family was a paycheck away from homelessness, and if each person could truly choose how they would serve, I would be proud to have every young person participate in public service. However, that is not our reality. Until it is, I cannot support it.
4/4/18	It would certainly help if our President would speak about and treat federal employees as the dedicated servants that most of them are. People often go into federal service as part of their patriotic duty. It is nice to tout the military, but it needs no more lauding - it gets plenty. Young people need a leader to inspire them to participate in national service - as Kennedy so famously did: ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country. To answer your questions: #1 NO. #2. have no idea. #3 appeal to one's patriotism - not only for the military but also in other ways that public service is good for our country. #4 barriers are that there is a general trashing of public service EXCEPT for the military. #5. Yes. It appeals to our highest and best self - a desire to be of service to others - an opportunity to make a difference in the world, creating a better world for us all to live in. #6. maybe. Certainly service should be seen as a positive. #7. by appealing to our better natures - our highest calling - that young people can create a better world through service to humanity.
4/4/18	I certainly think the draft should be brought back, except that youth must be given an option to be drafted into the peace corps too. As a nation, while we are all so gung-ho about interfering in every country around the world, being THE warmonger leader, and destroying lives, why not draft young people into the Peace Corps, and wage peace for a change? ...except that our congressmen will lose their "bribes" from the weapon industry as a result!
4/4/18	I am not convinced of the need for selective service or the draft. If you wish to include women, who are now the majority of college graduates, you will need to develop a policy for the care of young children in the event that both parents are drafted. I am very much in favor of including an option on the selective service form allowing people to designate that they are conscientious objectors when they register. If it is decided that some sort of public service is required of all young people, conscientious objectors could, reasonably, be required to provide some alternative labor in lieu of military service. I would favor such an alternative. If you want to increase participation in service, I think government policies should reflect a desire to serve all

	Americans not just the wealthy. Furthermore, alternatives to belligerence as a means of dealing with problems both domestic and foreign would reduce objections by people like me who do not feel this is always the best approach. Some people genuinely object to shooting at fellow human beings, particularly when there appears to be no just cause. I, for one, believe that we are all brothers and sisters.
4/5/18	As several State school systems have implemented, community service is an essential part of our makeup as citizens of the United States. I'm in favor of a universal draft of 18 year olds, soon after their graduation from high school, to serve the public in one way or another. That could include military service, but it must respect conscientious objection to participation in war-making efforts. The best way to do this is to certify and offer a variety of other public service activities for young people of all abilities to serve their communities, country and world in a positive way, as a foundation for lifelong community involvement.
4/5/18	I would like to see a non-military public service option offered to young people as a post-college or pre-college gap year. It could offer funding for college as the military does. Something like the Peace Corps, VISTA and Teacher Corps that were there when I came of age in the late 1960s. If such a non-military public service option were available to all young people, it would teach them by experience the value of caring for their communities. If college funding was included as an incentive, a lot of low income youth would likely sign up and reap the benefit that would benefit all of us. The post-WW II GI Bill gave many young people the opportunity to pursue higher education and led to a period of prosperity in the US.
4/5/18	I do not believe a draft is a necessary component of U.S. national security. I would like to see C.O. status returned to the forms for registering, as I believe having alternative service is a requirement if the draft is reinstated. I believe the young Americans are serving our country by protesting against gun violence at this time.
4/5/18	1. A military draft or draft contingency still is a necessary component of US National Security. - Maintain Selective Service System (SSS) as an inexpensive insurance policy, \$23 million dollar annual budget, to augment active duty, reserve and national guard forces when needed in a national emergency. - We do not know what will happen and what adversaries will do in the future. Maintaining the SSS acts as a deterrent and asset to our National Security Posture.. -Only 1/4 of young men and women qualify for military service. We have a shrinking pool of talent and may one day need to have a partial draft to just fill the numbers needed for our military force. -The volunteer force does work but it is very expensive to maintain. When our military is not making their recruiting mission we spend tens of millions of additional dollars for recruiters and support structure, millions of dollars for recruiting, retention bonuses for the young men and women signing up. This adds to our federal deficit and takes away money that the military could use for other missions. Also, the recruiting standards are lowered to make the recruiting numbers. 2. Modifications are needed to the SSS. -Women need to also register. If we have a draft we need the best qualified individuals in our military regardless of gender. All combat positions have opened to women and they have proven themselves as outstanding warriors and contributors to our military. -SSS needs to have as close to 100% registration as possible to have a fair draft. Currently the registration rate at age 25 years old is in the low 90% range, and lower for younger men. Although it is federal law for virtually all young men between 18-25 years old to register, the men still have to physically register, formally do the action. Many young men register on the SSS website and some by mail. There are partnerships SSS has to get young men to register with groups like the Department of Education when men apply for a pell grant, with some of the States when a young man gets drivers license and a few other ways. Unfortunately, there is a percentage of men that do not register. This not fair to the young men that register and the perception for a fair process. WE NEED to find a method to get all men to register (and women if we decide they will register). A SUGGESTION allow SSS to just register young men automatically at age 18 based on the SSAN.


	<p>The ! SSS does send a list of the men not registered to the Department of Justice but they do not go after the men not registering during peacetime. I assume this is due to time, money, assets and other crimes that take their time. I clearly understand DOJ's position on this. SSS has to spend time, assets and money to remind men to register. Finding a better way will save time, assets and money for SSS and DOJ and will enhance draft fairness.</p>
4/6/18	<p>RE: the need for a military selective service process, including the continuing need for a mechanism to draft large numbers of replacement combat troops. COMMENT: Technological advances, including improved individual weaponry and robotic and AI advances can reduce the number of combat troops needed for operations, as each combat troop becomes more effective and greater firepower enabled. This reduces the need for a draft, which would be politically highly volatile. Further, an increase of re-enlistment bonuses for combat experienced troops would increase retention rates. Further, the use of properly vetted privately contract "soldiers" would reduce the need to re-establish a draft. (Need to avoid "Blackwater" problems). Further, more careful selection of areas of operation and commitment of military forces would likewise reduce the need for combat troops. Further, greater utilization of special operation troops for asymmetrical war fighting. RE: means by which to foster a greater attitude and ethos of service among United States youth, including an increased propensity for military service. COMMENT: Expansion of college ROTC programs and scholarships available for those studying critical skills (i.e. cyber security, critical languages), willing to commit to a period of service in the military to be determined. RE: The feasibility and advisability of modifying the military selective service process in order to obtain for military, national, and public service individuals with skills (such as medical, dental, and nursing skills, language skills, cyber skills, and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) skills) for which the Nation has a critical need, without regard to age or sex COMMENT: Reduction of basic training time and techniques for those in critical skill areas, who may be older than the normal troop, and greater use of vetted and cleared civilian contractors in the areas of critical language translation and intelligence analysis of materials secret and below. Top Secret Codeword materials should still be contained within military and civilian CIA/NSA etc. personnel. 2 NOTE: Problems of troop morale might arise when we have a bifurcated service—those who are in combat arms, and those who have jobs which are perceived as "cushier" rear echelon jobs, and those who have had lesser military training demands made upon them because of their intellectual superiority. Where practical, these different types of "troops" should be segregated. RE: The feasibility and advisability of including in the military selective service process, as so modified, an eligibility or entitlement for the receipt of one or more Federal benefits (such as educational benefits, subsidized or secured student loans, grants or hiring preferences) specified by the Commission for purposes of the review. COMMENT: Expansion of college ROTC programs and scholarships available for those studying critical skills (i.e. cyber security, critical languages), willing to commit to a period of service in the military to be determined, Greater promotion of same. Reduction of government tuition assistance programs where non-critical areas of study are undertaken.</p>

4/6/18	<p>1. No - a military draft should only be considered when there are threats of a "boots on ground" type of invasion by a foreign country to any states or territories and the current state of the military would be insufficient to repel such invasion - NEVER to send citizens to foreign campaigns. Volunteerism during such a scenario would likely be at a very high level and a draft could potentially still be unnecessary. 2. Yes - Place the Selective Service in a "deep standby" or abolish all together. 3. By offering competitive incentives. 4. For military barriers - 1) Physical qualification - which should always remain at a high level. 2) Number of troops required at any given time which varies. For national or public service barriers - usually depends on the number of jobs available. The application process is also cumbersome. People also need the right skill set. 5. Yes, pride in working for the needs of the nation. 6. NO! 7. Through competition with private sector.</p>
4/6/18	<p>As a Christian and a high-school teacher, I have counseled many young people about registering for Selective Service. We need a provision to allow the registration system to recognize conscientious objectors. (Or else, at the very least, remove the high penalties for not registering - but recognizing registration as C.O.s would be better.) I think many young conscientious objectors would be honored and uplifted to be able to serve their country in non-military ways, so adding a mandatory national service would be a great step as long as it recognized conscientious objection to military service. (signed) Frederick Martin, [REDACTED] Docket No. 05-2018-01</p>
4/6/18	<p>Sir, No disrespect, but not 1. Everyone is equipped mentally, emotionally and physically to serve in the Military. 2. The current Israel culture gives those men and women who serve in their military many perks after leaving full time service. If one refuses to not serve they are imprisoned. They do not receive all the benefits other Israelis are rewarded. There is definitely a defined privileged cultural class. My concern is the perks being given by US government agencies, law enforcement, post office, various companies, etc. Many young people who are of Color, low economic status, etc usually only have the option of joining the military in order to attempt to improve their status in Life. Then X amount of them experience physical, medical and emotional injuries while serving which makes life Hell for them, their families and Society. 3. My family, friends and others who served in the World Wars were told these were wars to end all wars. Now there are over 700 military bases throughout the World. We are currently waging more than 5 wars internally. War is taking not only lives, personalities and environmental resources away from the people of the USA but also the World. 4) Employees of the State Department have done the studies, crunched the numbers and have written a book that the act of war does not win. Nonviolent activism has created more healthy Peace and Peaceful living than waging War. Conclusion:. War IS NOT the Answer.</p>
4/6/18	<p>What we have now is an economic draft. The low-income, lacking health care and extended education, turn to military enlistment out of financial desperation. To address this disparity, we need a system of equal access to healthcare, higher education, and meaningful jobs. That is what real "national security" is all about. Second, you fail to ask about the role of the United States military. Civilians need to question why we need over 800 foreign military bases and a military establishment that dwarfs the rest of the world put together. And why our "industrial policy" isn't to build good jobs and create state-of-the-art infrastructure for civilian use but to shovel money to those who invest in our arms manufacturing industries whose bottom line depends on arms sales and hence conflicts abroad. To some degree, as Congressman Rangel of New York has argued, a draft would introduce both fairness and perhaps a political check on foreign military entanglements. But that alone didn't keep us out of Vietnam so I think the route of universal conscription is too dangerous. The best policy we could adopt federally would be to offer every college and trade school student a zero interest tuition loan repayable in full in four year installments if they enter some form of organized national service, including armed service, but also in the areas of education, healthcare, public infrastructure work, social services, and research. Their employer would have to be government at some level or a nonprofit, public service enterprise.</p>

4/7/18	I support a national service system that would include mentoring kids, replanting forests, and other constructive projects. A basic military is required, but much more resources should be directed to diplomacy. We should have extensive peaceful connections to every country in the world, seeking ways of living together constructively. Every citizen should receive training in peacemaking and nonviolence. A person can get an advanced degree in peacemaking, yet most people think there are no options other than military options or just doing nothing and being a victim. We need to greatly increase the sophistication of our populace with regard to peacemaking techniques. And we need to give many times more money to the State Department for diplomacy.
4/7/18	Military draft and selective service registration are not necessary. Mandatory military service is not acceptable. People "serve" society in a countless ways that do not seem to be considered in these questions or appreciated by our government: teachers, nurses, librarians, social workers, mental health specialists, humanitarian relief workers,... We need to be investing money, time, and energy into building a "compassionate service" corp that promotes peace and prosperity for all--not trains in waging war.
4/7/18	I am appalled that you think military service is "service" while millions go hungry and lack basic needs. Lay down your arms and turn to your neighbors, here and abroad. The budget doesn't seem to be able to support both military and humane service, so only service to fellow humans and the natural world is ethical.
4/7/18	No return to military draft! First, I object to a military draft because it is not UNIVERSAL. Just as rich people could always get abortions before Roe vs. Wade, the rich can also buy themselves out of military duty. This is so wrong! For example, when people like Cheney, Trump, Bolten or Clinton can avoid the draft and still become major figures in government planning to send others to war, this is wrong and gives a tremendous advantage to the already advantaged (Cheney, Trump, Bolten because of money; Clinton because of brains) who want to avoid the draft. The least rich or least intelligent members of our country should not be figuratively "punished" because they have less to start with. Any real Christian knows this is true. Also, those who object to war should be allowed to be conscientious objectors -- regardless of their religious affiliation; however, these same people -- who objected to war at age 18 or 21 should never be permitted to send others ! to war. This should be a law that if you refuse combat, you can not help in any way to send others to war. One way to get more people to participate is not to send them on silly missions such as watching the Mexican/Texas border when the numbers are so low. Also, those who wish to get college degrees--bachelors or advanced-- should be allowed to do public service or military service after they have been given the opportunity to finish their studies. To draft a pre-med student and then expect him to return as a civilian with the same knowledge he left with is just not true. I AM AGAINST FORCED MILITARY SERVICE -- and believe we will not get the best people until we stop getting involved in unnecessary wars -- such as Iraq. -- with no exit strategy. Until we behave as a wiser people in the U.S., I feel mandatory service is WRONG. Finally, to get a doctor to claim one has a bone spur cannot be done by the poor. This is especially true with bone spurs that disappear aft! er the patient is no longer of age to be drafted. The draft i! s an injustice to the poor, least advantaged, and least intelligent members of our country...Helen Mealy
4/7/18	Service is inherently valuable. Mandatory service? No--that's too much like slavery to the state. As presented, the emphasis in this commission's orientation feeds the increasing militarization of our national norms and expectations. The Peace Corps and AmeriCorps are better models of service than the military model.

4/8/18	<p>Dear Commissioners, The Boulder Colorado Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) Meeting thanks the Commission for the opportunity to provide its testimony regarding the matters of military and other public service. Our testimony is grounded in our belief that war is wrong, and that violence is not the way to obtain personal, national, or international peace and security among peoples and nations. We do instead believe in the peaceful prevention of violence and war. We seek to build peace and security through pursuing and sharing developments in health, sustainable environment, equality practices, and non-discrimination among all peoples, regardless of race, gender, religion, ethnicity, or national origin. Security and peace is a condition that can only be achieved and must be shared between all parties, not something imposed by military force and the use of violence. Security is achieved when all parties can share in not being threatened by the other... it is a condition that lies between all parties. To the matters of the Selective Service (draft) and Military Service of the United States: (1) We find that the current law requiring all males of draft age to register for military service should be eliminated. (2) We also find that the proposal that females should be included in registration for military service should likewise not occur. (3) There should be associated denials or limitations of public service opportunities and benefits (such as access to health care, education, admission or financial aid to attend universities, drivers' licenses, and any other social service benefits) based upon state, local or national requirements of mandatory registration for military service. (4) If the Selective Service registration and draft laws are not eliminated, a clear and easy process should be established for registrants and active duty or reserves to declare that they conscientiously object to military service. This personal declaration of conscientious objection should not be tied to a particular religious belief or membership in a religious organization. The only requirement should be a personal moral conscience that violence against others is wrong. Overall, we find that the extreme militarization of the United States is destructive, creates enemies, and is counter-productive to the goal of world peace. Violence creates more violence. We strongly support major reductions in both military funding and aggressive international policies. Acknowledging that our nation has been in a state of perpetual war for more than half a century, we advocate for sharing peaceful technologies, promoting international programs of equality in education and economic opportunities, access to public health, clean water, air and safe foods, and environmental protection and preservation. Excessive US militarization also seriously drains our resources for developing equal opportunities for health, well being, and peace, within our own nation, by misdirecting assets away from much needed domestic programs for community resilience and opportunity. Regarding Non-Military Public Service- We firmly believe in service to others and to the natural world in which we all live. Our lives must be about service and sharing to make us whole. There are many ways to engage in such service to others, both in our personal lives and actions, and in our vocations, be they in the public/governmental sector, or in private businesses or non-profit activities. All such activities must always be conducted in non-violent fashion; that is the key to being consistent with respect for life, non-violence, and peace. These must always be the foundational criteria for public service. Again we thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to Commission. We look forward to possible opportunities to provide oral testimony at listening sessions in our area.</p>
4/8/18	<p>Modifications to the selective service system are needed to allow for conscientious objection to military service. Alternatives to military service should support community welfare (such as work in schools, hospitals, repairing our infrastructure, etc.), use the skills of those who serve, and be compensated in the same way as military service (salary, educational opportunities, etc.). A mandatory service requirement for all young Americans could increase patriotism and an ethos of service.</p>

4/8/18	<p>Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? ANSWER: No, the US should end the selective service (which is a war-oriented platform) and replace it with a National Service platform along the lines of SCA (Student Conservation Corps) Are modifications to the selective service system needed? ANSWER: no, it should be discontinued in favor of a non-militaristic service program How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? ANSWER: We don't need an increase in the military. We already have an over bloated military. As to national security -- when the US stops attacking and harassing other nations we will find our own security increased. What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? ANSWER: There are very few barriers. The military is, seemingly, recruiting everywhere. Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? ANSWER: National service to support the country (like FDR's program the WPA) has value. Military service, as it is currently organized as a corporate enforcement force, is a giant waste of time. We've got thousands of veterans with PTSD, maimed and sick from wars of aggression that served no other purpose than to acquire oil. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? ANSWER: Yes, mandatory service for all (including blue bloods), but no special treatment and it MUST CONTAIN service for conscientious objectors and people who do not wish to serve the war machine. How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? ANSWER: Create a national service program focused on doing good NOT doing harm. Lots of people want to serve, very few want to be killers for the corporate oligarchs that control congress.</p>
4/8/18	<p>I am a member of the DAB for Kansas. I live in Topeka. Because of my keen interest in the seven questions, I am considering attending the meeting in Denver on April 19; however, it would be easier for me to attend a different meeting closer to the Kansas City area if such in planned for the near future. Could you please advise. Thank you, Duane Johnson</p>
4/8/18	<p>A military draft is not necessary for US security.</p>
4/8/18	<p>1. The Selective Service System should be eliminated, it is not needed, since we no longer have a draft. 2. Restore the full rights of people who have not registered with the Selective Service. 3. Officially let registrants to self-designate as conscientious objectors during Selective Service registration if it is continued. 4. Allow registrants to request to perform alternative humanitarian service in the event of a draft. 5. Ensure that any alternative service program is run by a civil agency and with the same benefits as military service. Submitted by Gilbert Reyes Robledo, Phd. Member of Veterans for Peace. Former US Army Reservist, 1959-1965. The United States should allow people to be conscientious objectors without punishment or other negative characterization. As a nation we need to easily accept peaceful & diplomatic solutions to international conflict rather than always using war and violence first. I would like to testify at the California public listening session. Please let me know when & where it will be held. I can be reached at: [REDACTED]</p>
4/8/18	<p>1. No the draft is not necessary so please eliminate the Selective Service System. Modifications should be made by restoring the full rights of people who have not registered with the Selective Service and allow registrants to self-designate as conscientious objectors during Selective Service registration. I feel we have enough participation because our sophisticated weaponry does not demand enormous personnel. We should emphasis all types of service so that youth feel assisting in programs benefit not only the military but all aspects of our country. We should also ensure any alternative service program is run by a civil agency with the same benefits as military service. Mandatory service is not acceptable because people would not perform willingly, but voluntary service that allows young people to select involvement in any number of equally paid programs-not just military-provides skills and a better understanding of connection to the community. Thank you!</p>

4/8/18	1.As a Quaker I do not countenance war as a solution to the world's problems and so am opposed to a draft. 2. The selective service system should be eliminated. 3. There should be no increase in military service. There should be a complete elimination of the military. 4. There should be no national service. 5. No inherent value. 6. Not in any way. 7. It should not.
4/8/18	I AM willing to go to war.. BUT, only against 'the CURRENT rogue, usurpation, government.'
4/9/18	1. There is no evidence that a draft or draft contingency is a necessary component of our National Security. 2. There should be modifications made for a universal mandatory 1-year period of public service, with one option being military enrollment (essentially National Guard preparation). There should be no exceptions, not even for bone spurs. 5. The inherent value is getting people of diverse socio-economic-cultural backgrounds working with each other toward shared goals. Additionally, preparation for the workforce will be enhanced. 6. As stated, it is valuable beyond the work done, because it will help break down the barriers that are maintained by geographic separation and the resulting lack of interaction with people unlike ourselves. There is plenty of work to be done, we are the wealthiest nation, so feasibility is not an economic issue. Political feasibility is another matter. The ideal of "being in service to our country" might be a tough sell given the self-centeredness of modern culture. 7. It has to start from the top. John Kennedy through his vision of service inspired many to serve.
4/9/18	Please end registration requirements for military service, and eliminate the still functioning elements of the Selective Service System. We should not have any mandatory national service for any purpose, civilian or military, as slaves make poor defenders of freedom. Should the military draft or compulsory national service ever be reinstated, I will not be alone in openly resisting the law, and helping others to do so as well. The law will be unenforceable, just as the law against practicing Quakerism was unenforceable against William Penn, if only because juries will refuse to convict. Liberty is a higher value than symbolism about liberty, and mouthing platitudes about defending liberty, while openly violating the liberty of young people while doing so, will achieve nothing of value, as people see the hypocrisy inherent in such actions. Mark W. Stroberg Hot Springs, MT USA 
4/9/18	1. A draft contingency is not necessary 3. offer better pay to public servants who deserve it, teachers, social workers etc. stop wasting our tax dollars on mistake violence across the world. 4. Barriers include, people do not want to kill people. 5. Service has inherent value, military service DOES NOT. Helping others fulfills a deep need in human consciousness, humans are social, being social is helping one another. 6. Could be, unless it is military service, in which case that is ridiculous and a waste of time and money. 7. Pay them well and give them opportunities to HELP people, rather than kill them. The military ideal of being strong and getting yelled at all day long is not appealing...
4/9/18	Whatever the conclusions of the commission, I hope that Alternative Service for Conscientious Objectors will still be part of the choices available to young Americans. This is a way that people of conscience can provide vital service, sometimes in areas few are willing to volunteer in.

4/9/18	<p>1.2.5.7. I am not for a compulsory draft for military service, and feel that young men should not be required to sign up for it. On the other hand, we might consider the benefits of national service which would include a choice of military or public service. The benefit could be a free higher education at state sponsored colleges. This would entice middle class enrollees at least. You can't do much about the top 10% unless you do something with the tax code as well. The much maligned public schools have been our best advocates for service to the community in recent years; many require a certain number of hours for graduation. Many young people are required to do internships before they're hired, perhaps some of these should be considered public service. There is so much that is unfair in our country right now. Could spending some of the enormous military budget to pay enrollees to do infrastructure jobs that lead to real jobs be another way to train workers for better paying jobs? 5. YES, public service has inherent value and is missing right now in our politics and attitudes. It also allows the country to have a last chance to educate its young people in some common values--empathy for those different from oneself, kindness to others, civility. I'm not sure national service can do this and I know that national military service can't. So we have to be careful what we wish for. 6. A mandatory service requirement for all Americans may not be feasible given the budget cutting attitude in our government. Any new government program will involve new government spending so Americans would have to be persuaded that there was value in requiring or incentivizing young people to do public service.</p>
4/9/18	<p>I do not think we should have the draft for the military. I am morally and religiously opposed to war. Having grown up during the Vietnam era. I would not like to see the country return to the draft. It would be good to see more public service in other areas though.</p>
4/9/18	<p>Young people have a desire to do or serve for some purpose beyond themselves. US needs another alternative to: 'serve by killing people from other nation states'</p>
4/9/18	<p>1. The military draft is not a necessary component of U.S. national security. It is immoral to force people to go to war. A free society should hold bodily autonomy paramount. Military service should be based on choice. Our bodies are not communal property, and we should never be compelled to fight in a war we may disagree with. If a war is justified, citizens will fight voluntarily. 4. The barriers to participation in military service include the fact that many Americans view the U.S. military as aggressors, not as an institution that defends our values. Many Americans are apprehensive to enlist in an institution that they believe to be bloated. The U.S. spends more money on its military than the next 8 countries combined, yet many believe the institution is not accountable. Take, for instance, The Pentagon's Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), which was reportedly not able to document hundreds of millions of dollars of money it spent, as reported in Feb. 2018. 5. Military service does have inherent value, because it is important for protecting the values and freedoms of a nation. Without a military, the U.S. could fall victim to external powers that would dismantle our institutions, freedoms, and way of life. However, military service should be voluntary and encouraged via incentives, not through use of force. 7. The U.S. could increase the propensity for Americans to serve by offering financial incentives or by better communicating the skills military enlistees will learn and WHY -- how it could help them to protect the values Americans hold dear. Currently, military enlistment is sold to young people as militainment, or like a video game -- the advertising teaches young people that the military is more like a game than an honorable way to protect American values. Perhaps if military advertising and enlistment practices focused more on the hard skills that Americans would learn and WHY -- to protect their fellow citizens and their families from forces that would erode our freedoms -- young people might feel enlisting would give them honor. The U.S. should also create more transparency around the military and consider dismantling bureaucratic bloat in the institution that leads to high spending. Note: A Care2 petition I started has gathered over 25,000 signatures asking the US to dump the draft, not extend it to women: http://www.care2.com/go/z/Draft Thank you for soliciting feedback on this important topic. Julie M.</p>

4/9/18	A great way to increase participation in public service would be to have a program where young people can have their college tuition paid for and in return they serve for two years (or so) providing their professional skills in underserved areas. Aside from giving more people access to higher education, such a program would give people the opportunity to cross geographical, cultural, and class boundaries and get to know in a real and positive way fellow citizens whom they might not otherwise have the chance to know. It would also instill an ethos of public service that could inform participants' choices throughout their lives. Regarding increasing participation in military service, a more constructive way to look at this might be: How can we decrease the need for the military? War is not the answer.
4/9/18	Public service is important, this includes Americorps and Peace Corps. For those in early 20's it can be a time of maturing.
4/9/18	The last couple generations make me ashamed to be human (I say this as a millennial). We need a draft. And I don't care about equal rights (I say this as a woman), the men really need the draft. They need to be instructed on how to be proper menfolk, public schools have failed them.
4/9/18	I can't think of an occasion in which I agree with violence, especially war. With the state department so under funded and with so many unfilled positions a case certainly cannot be made for running out of diplomatic solutions. There's always a diplomatic solution. So there's no reason for a draft. And since killing people is wrong, a draft is wrong. Selective service should be ended. We need to shrink the military drastically. The military is not a service to our nation but a disservice. Morality is the big barrier to military service. Other types of public service like the state department need to start with increasing foreign language studies in schools as too few people in the state department speak the language of the country they are in. The value to our country of service to the world should be promoted. The value of service is to bring about greater peace, solve climate change and bring about gender, race, political, opportunity and economic equality. Mandatory! service to that end may help bring about greater empathy and understanding of other cultures. I'm not sure that the U.S. does anything to increase service to the world except when it's in the financial interests of the rich.
4/9/18	1) A military draft is NOT necessary. A military draft is likely to lead to more willingness to go to war. That, in turn, may lead to the use of nuclear weapons. Use of nuclear weapons on almost any scale will have disastrous effects for citizens of the US and the world. 2) The draft should be abolished. We should be seeking world peace, not increasing our ability to fight wars. 3) Public service should be focused on peace, not war. Low/no cost, life time education will build a more capable population. Elimination of poverty in an important step in reducing financial iniquity in the US. The elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction is key to stabilizing the world. DO NOT weaponize AI. Do not fund boondoggles like the F-35 (which exists mostly to feed the military-industrial complex). We are going to need vast funds to address climate change. Our tax money is much better used for things that will improve the lives of citizens both in the US and the World at large. 4) Barriers to participation include forcing participation, particularly if the service is military. 5) Service has value only if it serves real needs that are valued by the recipients and the tax payers. The participants in providing service need to be engaged, well trained and well managed. 6) There is likely to be considerable objection by groups concerned about spending tax funds on service or objection to conscription for military or other purposes. 7) A focus on improving the lives of people in the US as well as beyond our borders would be the best. Forced participation will build resentment and cynicism.
4/9/18	Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? No Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Yes How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? Through the integrity and role set by our governmental leaders. What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? Yes- especially service that is charitable and focused on community growth.

4/10/18	The draft is an unfair and immoral leftover from a very violent past. We have the ability and resources to talk to other countries instantly and negotiate without a single soldier ever being put on the front lines. A practice we should be USING. The draft should be abolished completely, we shouldn't be contemplating if we should open it to women. This is the wrong question and the wrong logic to our global issues.
4/10/18	I would like to see more opportunities for public service of a non-military nature. I am concerned about the focus on building up the military when we could do so much better by working to eliminate the causes of conflicts. The US already has service programs geared to younger adults that could be expanded. Young adults in a transition period, often after graduating from high school or college, are in a good place to dedicate a year or two to public service. But what could be offered to older adults? Older folks and our communities could both benefit if there were additional ways for more mature, and much more skilled, individuals to provide service. We could strengthen our communities if we had more adults building Habitat for Humanity homes, volunteering in schools, mentoring people leaving incarceration, coaching low income people entering the job market, assisting in elder care facilities, etc. Practically, in order to make service viable, a decent wage and health! care need to be provided. Otherwise, only people of comfortable, independent means can serve. A mandatory service requirement would be harsh - it's better to have people serve who are truly led to do so. Create more viable service opportunities, for all ages, and more people will serve.
4/10/18	The SSS, as it currently exists, is incompatible with modern day military and national security needs, and it does represent a silent punishment to those who are not registered who at times are disproportionately from difficult backgrounds who may be at most need of federal education benefits. Rather than registration being compulsory, I think one of two things need to happen: 1) Registration is automatic with a social security number for all Americans, and legal permanent residents between the ages of 18 and 39 (an age group currently targeted in various ways for either enlistment or officer recruitment in the various branches). 1.1) Because registration would automatic, penalties are removed during peacetime for any non-registrants. Penalties however would be in force during a time of active draft / national security need where the SSS was activated. 1.2) Because nearly half of SSS data on registrants is obsolete within the first year of registration (another major fault of the inefficiency of SSS), mandatory reporting of contact information as well as employment / skills would be tied to annual tax filings as well as state and federal licensing departments (e.g. medical licensing, FAA...etc), ensuring that both students and non-students maintain and report accurate records. 1.3) Because more accurate records of potential draft inductees would exist, military selection boards, privy to immediate skill needs within the force, would be able to better compose inductions into draft boards to fill those needs as they arise, as opposed to the current mass draft system that disregards critical skillsets (the SSS is antiquated in its methodology and organisation) 2) The SSS itself would be completely abolished and efforts to expand opportunities and skillsets into an all-volunteer military would replace it. This makes the composition of a effective fighting force much more competent and remove the logistical nightmare that would invariably take place, at the expense of the benefit of an already in place quick reaction force. These efforts would focus on expanding channels into the military (e.g. in the current pilot shortage, the USAF / USN currently take 24-36 months to produce a pilot, however the same pilot could be produced from civilian recruitment with the necessary prerequisite skills nearly immediately and trained into military standards within 0.5 - 1 year) and decreased, renewable contract lengths to ensure selection of service men and women dedicated to the all volunteer force as a career. Many nations already deploy such a system and are capable of hosting very effective standing militaries. That being said, I am much more in favor of option 2 than option 1. In this day an age, while the looming threats of war aren't completely gone, the battle grounds are much more restricted, fought with technology rather than just men with guns, and require a large degree of skillsets which are not served by a mass draft which

4/10/18	Re Docket No. 05-2018-01 I hope the Commission will consider the process of obtaining a Conscientious Objector Classification (I-O or I-AO). Currently there is no way to state that one wishes this status until after passing a physical exam and receiving an order to report for induction. If one were able to state this at the time of registration, it would document these beliefs at an early stage. It may be useful for a registrant to be able to submit information, on-line or printed, documenting his/her beliefs at this early stage. If, perhaps years later, these documents were convincing, it might allow a draft board to approve a CO classification without requiring a personal appearance or the hasty preparation of documents. My guess is that a future draft is likely to be in the context of a national emergency, putting local boards under a lot of time pressure and any determination that could be done with existing information would be helpful.
4/10/18	I am a child adolescent psychiatrist in the Milwaukee WI area . There is a phenomenon that I wish to call to the attention of the Commission. I see a number of teenage boys who have been doing well on medications for ADHD or depression. or anxiety, who decide when they are 16 or 17 that they want to stop their medications. They wish to join the military and have been told by a recruiter that they must be off such medications for a year before enlistment. Sometimes they succeed in doing so and enlist. Often their grades or other aspects of their lives deteriorate and they must get back on the medications, feeling that a military career is no longer possible. Sometimes they hold things together only to have difficulties soon after they enlist. I am aware that many military personal receive mental health treatment. Also, I believe that there is research indicating that there is a high level of problems that preexist enlistment and that this may explain some of high suicide rate among military personnel.I believe that being off medications is an arbitrary criteria to use to screen out candidates for military service. Someone who is doing well on a reasonable regimen should be allowed to enter the military. Those who do enlist after being off medications may prove to be more of a burden than if they had stayed. Finally, this encourages a deceitful approach in which the potential enlistee hides a number of problems that might not be a barrier to military service if dealt with honestly.
4/11/18	To Whom It May Concern: The time has come to end Selective Service Registration. To satisfy the need for a military defence force, there will continue to be individuals wanting to take up military service as their profession. The weapons industry must be downsized to actual defense needs, instead of selling excess weapons for profit to potential enemies. The wars waged by the US, whether declared or undeclared, since the end of WWII have been offensive actions. They have lead to ever greater insecurity, devastation of communities in many countries, and the lives of our own soldiers. Increasing we lose our standing in the world as a legitimate humanitarian country. For government to continue making policy based on the interests of the weapons industry is suicidal. In this setting it is impossible to remain human. To be human having a conscience. Our conscience tells us that cooperation with others is right and that injustice and violence against others is wrong. This is no naive. We have created so many enemies that radicalism became inevitable. Despite the deep complexity of the present situation, our course can and must be changed. Belief in war as a means for success is naive and criminal. I send this letter trusting that responsible leaders will speak out, and take up action to meet reality humanly.
4/11/18	To Whom It May Concern: I strongly oppose a military draft. Politicians should not have the right to decide if someone will serve in a war. Everyone deserves the right to decide if they want to serve in a war not the other way around.
4/11/18	I feel that the military draft is immoral because Thou Shalt Not Kill. If the draft included opportunities to serve to fill humanitarian or infrastructure needs as well as security needs, with the choice going to the individual, I would fully support it. The draft should include everyone! That would increase participation. Perhaps skilled individuals would be paid to extend their service at a rate that makes that appealing. Service does have inherent value. When one serves, it takes them out of their bubble and exposes them to other cultures, attitudes, ambitions which would help to build a bridge to

	<p>coummunicate. I don't know that service is necessary but it is certainly valuable and feasible. To increase the propensity to serve, mount a major ad campaign, including use of social media portraying service as and opportunity rather than an obligation.</p>
4/11/18	<p>I would argue for a draft for everyone (absolutely no exceptions) but a choice to enter the military or domestic service for a set period, maybe two years, and with pay being room and board and minimum wage for both military and domestic service for the two years. This would ensure all Americans are vested in and have helped their country to be strong instead of taking our democracy for granted. Domestic service would be in any governmental offices at the local, state or federal levels, and would include environmental restoration, aiding in public health efforts, aiding teachers in public schools, and working in governmental offices of every kind to prepare the draftees for work after public service. I think the greatest barriers to military service are the aggressive military interventions that the United States has pursued, with Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq being prime examples. No citizen of the US who is informed wants to serve in the military when they may be killed and may kill many civilians and when billions of dollars are wasted that could be put to better use in areas where needs are so great. Many fled the country to avoid the draft during the Vietnam war. Many still have not returned. During the Second World War, it was different story. Men wanted to serve and do their part to counter a clear threat to the nation and our way of life even if it meant giving up their life. If service to the country is defined more broadly as I outlined above, the propensity to serve could be greatly increased with many rewards for the nation. For young people in the age range of 18 to 21, it is the age of exploration to see what kinds of work and occupations they would like to pursue, to find out what talents they may have in certain areas, and what might draw them to public service. As a seventeen-year old, just out of high school, I had only vague ideas of what I wanted to do with my life. I knew that going to college would have rewards and I knew I had the mental capacity to do well. But coming from poverty, I had no finances to get me to college so I used the only way I could be sure to attain college degree. I signed up for the NROTC program and committed myself to four years of military service after college. Upon commissioning I extended that commitment to five years to be able to serve in the nuclear Navy. Due to the shortage of draftees during the Vietnam war my service was extended another year to six years. In summary, the best way to increase the propensity of Americans to serve, is for them to know that our military actions are very clearly to counter a real threat to the nation. It is clear to me and to many that our pervasive and huge military presence and many misguided actions around the world are not increasing our security but in fact may be decreasing it. Reinststitute the draft with no exceptions, so that everyone serves in either a domestic or military capacity.</p>
4/11/18	<p>The Draft is and always has been slavery. It is immoral for a State to demand conscription, especially to its organizations designed for death and destruction.</p>
4/11/18	<p>Until 1974, the United States had a system in place to: 1) provide suitable manpower to the U.S. Armed Forces; 2) screen our young men for suitability to serve 3) specifically, screen our young men regarding their suitability to comport safely and effectively with firearms. This occurred during Basic Combat Training. Now there is no such screening system of any sort. Now there is no accountability for whether these young men were raised to be adults, and there is no rite of passage to define when a young person is to be considered to be an adult. And particularly, there is no screening regarding suitability to comport with firearms. In the 1950's and 1960's, most firearms dealers were veterans, and most of them would not sell to anyone without an honorable discharge. Nowadays, most arms dealers are NOT veterans, and most of them do not perform the screening function that we once all benefitted from. BOTTOM LINE: There should be National Service for EVERYBODY of ALL AGES and SKILLS, and screening of everybody who wishes to</p>

	purchase firearms. There should again be a rite of passage in order to be considered an adult. Everyone should become vested in our culture, our society, and our economy. Jay S. Haygood SFC, USA (Retired)
4/11/18	There is no way the U. S. Can have a fair draft because like all drafts in the past the rich buy their way out. Our politicians are so crooked they cater to the rich and help them keep their kids out of the draft. If it's possible to have a fair and honest system that everyone does their time serving the country one way or another like the Peace Corp or working to stop wars and so many other ways then fine. But there will never be a fair system in the United States because it is so corrupt. Look at the psychopath in the White House did he serve hell no and how many othe rich scum didn't serve? So make a fair and honest system or forget it. Also I done my time. Regards, Don Somsy
4/11/18	I support draft registration, and in times of national emergency, a general draft. I was never called to serve, but given a national emergency, I would be willing to serve even at the age of 60, given my professional background in software and AI. I would be happy to see the US adopt something like the Swiss model, even if this means doing my service later in life. *However*, a draft focused only on a narrow minority of selected professionals is an entirely different matter. You would be forcing just a few people to sacrifice jobs, businesses, even retirements, without asking their fellow citizens to do anything. This amounts to a forcible and uncompensated taking of property. If it's only a few people you need, then compensate them at full market rate, including compensation for losses of businesses etc.. If the rest of the nation is unwilling even to shoulder the financial burden of this, then why do they expect a small group to take all the load? Also, if it becomes clear that, say, a cybersecurity degree is a ticket to bootcamp and a private's pay, what will this do to student interest in such a degree? A big reason students pursue these critical areas is the opportunity and compensation they offer. Change that, and the already limited numbers may drop.
4/11/18	A military draft is still a necessary part of national security due to the uncertainty and volatility of the international order; an inexpensive insurance. A modification to the selective service is registration of women. A study sponsored by the Bipartisan Policy Center found that exclusion of women in the selective service process was the number one reason why women don't join the military. National service is extremely valuable to our democracy as it engages our populace. Focus on the young; 18-26 yrs. Mandatory service would not be embraced by many; unsure if it would pass. A very viable national service program would provide for opportunities to young people between the ages of 18 to 26 to serve nationwide. A popular concept is to have national service be the over-arching collection of military service, international service programs such as Peace Corps and domestic service programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCCs) and other corps to be listed primarily categorized by much-needed functional areas such as a Care-giving Corps. As a nation, we are churning out better consumers than we are citizens. Consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many of our young people between the ages of 18 and 26 can tell you the price of any cell phone on the market but not the three branches of our government • Many feel disenfranchised from society; do not trust the government; feel left behind • Many are deeply depressed and turning to deadly drugs and crime as a way out • 6 million jobs go begging because young people do not have the skills to fill them. An All-volunteer, Incentivized National Service Program Might Look Like • Domestic programs like AmeriCorps, VISTA, Equal Justice Works, Teach for America and Children's Corps, or serving in a variety of organizations—public and private—that focus on healthcare, cyber security, cultural anthropology, languages, care-giving, and journalism • Infrastructure rebuilding (reactivate

	<p>the Civilian Conservation Corps, or CCCs) • International programs, such as the Peace Corps • Service in the US Armed Forces, with a focus on recruiting more women into the military Incentive--In return for their service, participants would receive: • Lodging, uniforms, healthcare and good allowances, as well as stipends. • Opportunity for domestic and international travel experiences • Exposure to new people, places and ideas • Education and training in civil and social skills • Upon completion of two years of service, education-debt reduction or education allowance similar to the GI Bill; opportunity for a VA-type of home loan This is a bold undertaking that will require bold commitments to achieve bold outcomes. However, nothing less than the future of our nation—and kids—is at stake.</p>
4/11/18	<p>1. Yes, a draft is a necessary component of U.S. national security. 2. Yes, the current "non-draft" is useless. 3. The United states can increase participation and enhance national security by instituting universal service with a military component. 4. A lack of good elementary and secondary education on history and civics plus liberals/progressives who believe socialism works. 5. Service has inherent value by providing understanding. The average person has no idea what the military does or how they do it; they hear about a \$700 aircraft toilet seat and think "what a bunch of idiots" when the fault lies not with the military but with Congress that makes the rules (and very few have ever served). 6. Yes, now more than ever. We are not far from becoming a mercenary force, not a citizen force. The advantage to a mandatory draft is the resulting forces then reflect society as a whole. Simply put, the volunteer force does not work. During the Vietnam War, I had a friend in the Navy serving on the USS Enterprise. Sitting next to him in the CIC was a PhD in Computer Science. Today, we don't see that. What we do see is almost daily examples of poor, incompetent leadership. Ship captains running their ships aground or colliding with civilian vessels. Air Force commanders allowing their personnel to run amok and their equipment to not be mission ready. 7. Honestly, I wish I knew. I think education and exposure to positive role models are part of the solution.</p>
4/12/18	<p>I am in favor of mandatory service for all Americans, with an incentive similar to the GI Bill. I was a conscientious objector and did civilian service. I wish all young Americans had this opportunity and this obligation.</p>
4/12/18	<p>My first thought is that the Commission needs a much higher profile. Any discussion of conscription should involve a maximum number of citizens. A local radio station that serves primarily the African-American community has been airing a reminder that young men must register. Why is there no similar announcement calling attention to this opportunity for commentary and stressing the April 19 deadline? In addition to this commentary period, I understand that a series of public hearings is planned. When will locations and dates of said hearings be published? Having voiced those complaints, I'll proceed to my criticisms of current practice: (1) linking registration to issuance of driver's licenses leaves registrants scarcely aware they've registered, (2) no provision for registrants to declare themselves conscientious objectors. One proposal is for universal service, to include civilian as well as military assignments. Such a system would accommodate conscientious objectors. I understand that both France and Canada have begun such a program, BUT it's VOLUNTARY in both cases. Why does the U.S. feel that it needs to coerce its youth into service? In view of the fact that no one has actually been drafted for many years now, it seems to me that we could abolish the Selective Service System altogether.</p>

4/12/18	<p>Questions: A military draft contingency is still a valuable component and relatively inexpensive insurance for our national security readiness supporting our democracy. The major modification needed is to include women as equal responsible citizens. The constitutionality of excluding women, decided in 1981 in <i>Rostker v Goldberg</i> is no longer valid as the DOD lifted the combat exclusion of women. As young people become aware of national service and our nation provides a menu of opportunities for citizens between 18 to 26 years to serve for at least two years, young people will see the advantage of serving and gaining needed training, skills, certifications and choices for continually increasing personal growth. The number one reason verified by a recent study showed that excluding women from the Selective Service Act decreased participation in military service. Many believe that our nation should focus on a minimum of two years of voluntary service for all with some in the military continuing with the current military concept of a full 20-year career. Incentives as mentioned below should also be available. A primary barrier to participation is a lack of different functional areas to serve in non-military service along with workforce development factors and lack of awareness of opportunities plus the small number of positions available. Service is essential in a country with a democratic form of government which is by definition a participatory government; not a spectator government. All citizens must be engaged, or we risk losing our democracy. Our founding fathers believed all would participate as stated by George Washington, "It may be laid down as a primary position, and the basis of our system, that every Citizen who enjoys the protection of a free Government, owes not only a proportion of his property, but even of his personal services to the defense of it." At this time, mandatory service would not receive the votes needed to pass. In the future, this may be appropriate and necessary. Change the Selective Service Law to include women. Offer job training to enhance the ability of young Americans to obtain well-paying, meaningful employment. Provide incentives during and after serving such as a GI Bill, loan forgiveness and a VA home loan. Support a National Service Movement for young people ages 18-26 years to serve in numerous functional work areas. A very viable national service program would provide for opportunities to young people between the ages of 18 to 26 to serve a minimum of two years nationwide. A popular concept is to have national service be the over-arching collection of military service, international service programs such as Peace Corps and domestic service programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCCs) and other corps to be listed primarily categorized by much-needed functional areas such as a Care-giving Corps.</p>
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4/12/18	<p>Questions: A military draft is still needed inexpensive manpower insurance. The major modification needed-include women as equal responsible citizens. The constitutionality of excluding women, decided in 1981 in Rostker v Goldberg is no longer valid as the DOD lifted the combat exclusion of women. As young people become aware of national service and our nation provides a menu of opportunities for citizens between 18 to 26 years to serve for at least two years, young people will see and seek the advantage of serving and gaining needed training, skills, certifications and choices for personal growth. The number one reason verified by a recent study showed that excluding women from the Selective Service Act decreased participation in military service. Our nation should focus on minimum of 2 years of voluntary service for all with some continuing with the current military concept of a full 20-year career. Incentives as mentioned below. A primary barrier to participation is a ! lack of different functional areas to serve in non-military service along with workforce development factors and lack of awareness of opportunities plus the small number of positions available. Service is essential in a country with a democratic form of government, a participatory government; not a spectator government. Offer job training to enhance the ability of young Americans to obtain well-paying, meaningful employment. Provide incentives during and after serving such as a GI Bill, loan forgiveness and a VA home loan. Support a National Service Movement for young people ages 18-26 years. A very viable national service program would provide for opportunities to young people between the ages of 18 to 26 to serve a minimum of two years nationwide. Have national service be the over-arching collection of military service, international service programs such as Peace Corps and domestic service programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCCs) and other corps to be li! sted primarily categorized by much-needed functional areas suc! h as a Care-giving Corps. All-volunteer, National Service Program might look like: Domestic programs like AmeriCorps, VISTA, Equal Justice Works, Teach for America and Children’s Corps, or serving—public and private—that focus on nursing, cyber security, cultural anthropology, languages, care-giving, and journalism; Infrastructure rebuilding (reactivate the Civilian Conservation Corps(CCCs); International programs, i.e. Peace Corps; Service in the US Armed Forces, with a focus on recruiting more women into the military. Incentives: Lodging, uniforms, healthcare and stipends; Domestic and international travel; Exposure to new people, places and ideas; Education and training in civil and social skills. After 2 years of service, offer loan forgiveness; GI Bill; and VA-</p>

	<p>type of home loan. This bold undertaking will require bold commitments to achieve bold outcomes. However, nothing less than the future of our nation—and kids—is at stake.</p>
4/12/18	<p>Questions: A military draft is still needed for inexpensive manpower insurance. The major modification needed includes women as equal responsible citizens. The constitutionality of excluding women, decided in 1981 in <i>Rostker v Goldberg</i> is no longer valid as the DOD lifted the combat exclusion of women. As young people become aware of national service and our nation provides a menu of opportunities for citizens between 18 to 26 years to serve for at least two years, young people will see and seek the advantage of serving and gaining needed training, skills, certifications and choices for personal growth. The number one reason verified by a recent study showed that excluding women from the Selective Service Act decreased participation in military service. Our nation should focus on a minimum of 2 years of voluntary service for all with some continuing with the current military concept of a full 20-year career. Incentives as mentioned below. A primary barrier to participation is a lack of different functional areas of service in non-military service, along with workforce development factors and lack of awareness of opportunities plus the small number of positions available. Service is essential in a country with a democratic form of government, a participatory government; not a spectator government. Offer job training to enhance the ability of young Americans to obtain well-paying, meaningful employment. Provide incentives during and after serving, such as a GI Bill, loan forgiveness and a VA home loan. Support a National Service Movement for young people ages 18-26 years. A very viable national service program would provide opportunities to young people between the ages of 18 to 26 to serve a minimum of two years nationwide. Have national service be the over-arching collection of military service, international service programs such as Peace Corps and domestic service programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCCs) and other corps to be listed primarily categorized by much-needed functional areas such as a Care-giving Corps. All-volunteer, National Service Program might look like: Domestic programs like AmeriCorps, VISTA, Equal Justice Works, Teach for America and Children’s Corps, or serving—public and private—focusing on nursing, cyber security, cultural anthropology, languages, care-giving, and journalism; Infrastructure rebuilding (reactivate the Civilian Conservation Corps(CCCs); International programs, i.e. Peace Corps; Service in the US Armed Force, with a focus on recruiting more women into the military. Incentives: Lodging, uniforms, healthcare and stipends; Domestic and international travel; Exposure to new people, places and ideas; Education and training in civil and social skills. After 2 years of service, offer loan forgiveness; GI Bill; and VA-type of home loan. This bold undertaking will require bold commitments to achieve bold outcomes. However, nothing less than the future of our nation—and kids—is at stake.</p>

4/13/18	<p>America's Service Commissions appreciates the opportunity to provide input into the work of the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service (Commission) as requested in the public comment opportunity due April 19, 2018. America's Service Commissions is the national association of the 52 state service commissions, administering 80% of AmeriCorps funding across the country and promoting an ethic of service in their states. State service commissions represent Governor appointed commissioners that direct the work of each state service commission with the goal of engaging people of all ages in service to address pressing community needs. America's Service Commissions represents the state service commission network and their role in volunteering and national service programs such as AmeriCorps. For the purpose of this public comment, it should be noted that the state service network defines AmeriCorps as a "national service" program. The current NDAA definitions of "National Service" and "Public Service" do not capture the important work of the federally administered national service program, AmeriCorps, and other service programs. America's Service Commissions joins our partner Service Year Alliance in recommending that the Commission reexamine the current NDAA definitions of national and public service. Specifically, we recommend:</p> <p>Aligning with the Domestic Volunteer Service Act Definition: The current NDAA definitions of "National Service" and "Public Service" differ from the definition in the Domestic Volunteer Service Act, 42 USC 12511(26). The Domestic Volunteer Service Act sets forth specific definitions and criteria about "national service positions," term lengths, eligibility, activities, benefits, and other matters which have guided program implementation.</p> <p>Reconsidering the Term "Employment": If "civilian employment" is intended to mean traditional employment for wages according to applicable labor laws and regulations, service in AmeriCorps would not be included because AmeriCorps members earn a subsistence living allowance for national service, not wages for paid employment. Our public comment primarily focuses on 1) broadening the current definitions of national and public service to include national service programs, such as AmeriCorps; 2) partnering with Governor's state service commissions as the primary leaders for service in their respective states to develop a state strategy for national and public service and; 3) expanding AmeriCorps and other national service programs to provide more opportunities to serve, while integrating them into existing military infrastructures to create a pipeline of service. If you have questions regarding this public comment, please contact. Public Comment Answers</p> <p>(1) Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? America's Service Commissions has no comment or opinion on the necessity of the draft.</p> <p>(2) Are modifications to the selective service system needed? America's Service Commissions has no comment or opinion on the selective service system.</p> <p>(3) How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? The United States can increase participation in military, national and public service by making civilian national service opportunities such as AmeriCorps more integrated into existing military structures. For example, the United States military has an extensive recruitment infrastructure, while AmeriCorps is run by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), has no formal recruitment infrastructure and individual programs must conduct their own recruitment. This has created a situation where almost 25 years into the existence of AmeriCorps there is still a significant lack of awareness of AmeriCorps as an opportunity for Americans of all ages to serve their country. For the first time in history, less than 1 percent of Americans are serving in our nation's military and approximately 71% of the 34 million 17-to-24-year-olds in the U.S. would not qualify for military service because of reasons related to health, physical appearance and educational background. Yet, polling shows that young adults of all background want to serve. Using the military's existing recruitment infrastructure to incorporate all civilian national service programs, such as AmeriCorps would help to increase awareness of other non-military service opportunities for young Americans. While each individual AmeriCorps program has its own entry requirements, the vast majority of Americans would be able to serve in an AmeriCorps role regardless of their health, physical appearance or education background. AmeriCorps programs are already having a significant impact in addressing the needs of the nation. While the priorities of each state service commission vary depending on their state needs and their Governor's priorities, across the nation</p>
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the top five priorities of state service commissions include: education, economic opportunity, volunteerism, opioid epidemic, and healthy futures. Other priorities represented include environment, disaster services, public safety and demographic specific engagement (seniors, youth, disability, veterans). State service commissions are leading the nation in developing AmeriCorps programs addressing critical community needs. Each state service commission receives a formula allocation of funding to support statespecific needs. In addition, state service commissions compete in a competition for national funding. In 2017, 80% of all AmeriCorps funding flowed through state service commissions to programs addressing locally identified needs. These programs are addressing a wide-range of needs, but a few examples include: Education — Developed with support and funding from ServeMinnesota, the state service commission for Minnesota, Reading Corps is a breakthrough program that is changing academic outcomes for thousands of students. With more than 1,500 tutors serving in twelve states and Washington D.C., Reading Corps is helping more than 36,000 children each year become successful readers. It combines the power of national service with literacy science to deliver proven approaches that help struggling learners transform into confident students – something that translates into all areas of their lives. Disaster Response — A majority of state service commissions (52%) are formally written into their state’s emergency response plan and many others have roles defined outside of the formal plan. State service commissions are typically charged with managing unaffiliated spontaneous volunteers during times of disaster, coordinating volunteers and donations, and deploying AmeriCorps resources to respond to state disasters. Other roles may include disaster fund management and serving as the public information office. In addition, 53% of state service commissions have a program in their portfolio that respond to disasters including programs like the Washington Conservation Corps. Funded and supported by Serve Washington, the Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) is an AmeriCorps program engaging young adults between the ages of 18-25 and military veterans in the restoration of critical habitat, building trails, and responding to local and national disasters. WCC crews are deployed to disasters throughout the country, most recently including supporting gutting and mucking and other needs related to Hurricanes Harvey, Maria and Irma. Opioid Epidemic — The opioid epidemic is an emerging and growing issue that AmeriCorps is responding to, especially where the needs are greatest related to recovery. Supported by the Massachusetts Service Alliance, the state service commission in Massachusetts, the Police Assisted Addiction & Recovery Initiative (PAARI) places AmeriCorps members across Massachusetts to address the growing opioid epidemic. With member support, each police department will have the ability to directly refer and place 50 or more people into treatment. Supported from Volunteer New Hampshire, the Community Resource Corps (CRC) program is a new AmeriCorps project in New Hampshire, designed to improve health and health outcomes for individuals affected by substance use and behavioral health disorders. All members support the work of primary care clinics, behavioral health centers and other social service organizations by being part of a health Care Team. We recommend the Commission partner further with America’s Service Commissions and its network of 52 governor appointed state service commissions to identify opportunities to expand AmeriCorps and integrate AmeriCorps recruitment and awareness into existing military structures (National Guard, etc.) as a way to engage all Americans in service to country. As leaders for service in their states, the state infrastructure already exists through state service commissions and their programs to engage Americans in non-military national service programs. (4) What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? The biggest barrier facing AmeriCorps is a lack of awareness regarding the opportunity and its benefits. According to our partner, Service Year Alliance, only 29% of 14-24 year olds are aware of service year options yet 80 percent of Millennials want to participate in national service. We need to help young people and their parents understand the benefit to them giving a year of service or more to their country. Some of those benefits include gaining skills, getting a better job or getting into a better school, earning money for college or to pay student loans and more. Due in part to the lack of awareness, AmeriCorps programs are struggling with member recruitment. In 2017, the state service commission network ranked member recruitment as the second biggest challenge facing their work, followed by AmeriCorps member retention. As the economy and unemployment

continue to improve, recruitment and retention of AmeriCorps members becomes more and more challenging. The Commission has an opportunity to develop a culture of service that provides an opportunity for all Americans to serve their country, not just the 1% that meet the physical attributes. Other barriers facing participation in AmeriCorps civilian service includes the inequity of access. Currently, given the financial burdens of AmeriCorps service including housing, food, relocation, etc., a significant number of AmeriCorps members are those that have the support systems to do so. AmeriCorps members earn a modest living allowance to assist them in paying for rent and food, but that living allowance has not increased significantly over the last 10 years. While there are exceptions and many programs and state service commissions develop local strategies to reduce the barriers to service, the structural barriers exist that makes it challenging for someone without a support system to serve. As the Commissions works to make its final recommendations, it should include recommendations to improve the access and equity of civilian national service program like AmeriCorps, as well as strategies to increase the awareness. (5) Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? Yes. Service has an inherent value to our democracy. As noted by Alexis de Tocqueville in *Democracy in America*, “There is no end which the human will despairs of attaining through the combined power of individuals united into a society.” Service provides at least three benefits. First to the volunteer themselves, as demonstrated by numerous research studies on the benefits of service on the volunteer; second, to the primary beneficiary of the service through direct community impact, which can be measured over time; and third, to the greater society, in the form of creating community connections, social capital and bonds that enable society to function effectively. State service commissions exist to carry out and promote the inherent value of service in their states. Congress understood this inherent value when it authorized the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 and renewed this commitment to service in the National and Community Service Act of 1990, the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 and the 2009 Serve America Act. (6) Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? America’s Service Commissions does not have a comment on a mandatory service requirement. We believe service should be a common expectation for all Americans and the recommendations of this Commission should work to expand the infrastructure and resources for organizations to support service opportunities like AmeriCorps. The Serve America Act of 2009, authorized up to 500,000 AmeriCorps positions. At current funding levels, we have not been able to support more than 80,000 AmeriCorps positions. In order to meet the demands to engage all young Americans in service, there needs to be an investment in programs like AmeriCorps to provide enough meaningful opportunities. Knowing the military does not have the ability to absorb an influx of recruits that may not meet the minimum requirements, programs like AmeriCorps could be integrated into the national service pipeline and recruitment infrastructure to accommodate all young Americans with a desire to serve. (7) How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? There is an estimated \$1.5 trillion in student loan debt in this country with an average monthly payment of more than \$350/month. One of the benefits at the end of successfully completing a full term of AmeriCorps service is a Segal Education Award, equal to the Pell Grant (for less than full-time positions the Education Award is prorated proportionally based on the length of service). The Education Award can be used to pay off eligible student loans or pay for future postsecondary tuition. There is an economic opportunity to provide educational benefits for service to country. We encourage the Commission to explore recommendations that would expand the educational benefits for service to reduce student debt, improve the economy and increase the propensity for young Americans to serve. Recently, Senators Reed (RI), Coons (DE) and Blumenthal (CT) have proposed legislation that would expand the educational benefit of serving in AmeriCorps. Their legislation proposes that by completing two full terms of service, participants would receive an educational benefit equal to four years of the average in-state tuition at a public, four-year college. In addition, any recommendations should ensure there is no tax penalty for receiving this educational award. Currently, while many states do not tax the AmeriCorps education award, the federal government considers it taxable income and this creates yet another barrier and penalty for Americans that have just completed a year of service to

	<p>their country. There needs to be a greater incentive and a support system to increase the propensity for young Americans to serve. As stated earlier, we know that a majority of millennials want to serve, but a variety of factors keep them from serving. We need to expand the infrastructure to support young Americans serving in civilian national service programs like AmeriCorps and increase the benefits or at least increase awareness of the existing benefits. America’s Service Commissions welcomes the opportunity to work with the Commission to explore these vital questions in order to further national and public service in America.</p>
4/13/18	<p>I feel strongly that every young person should be required to serve either 2 years in the military or two years in public service. Unless our youth so serve they are unlikely to feel ownership and a deep and abiding appreciation of our country's traditions and the rights and privileges which we are afforded in a free and democracy society . ITS ABSOLUTELY VITAL AND ESSENTIAL THAT WE ALL GIVE BACK.</p>

4/13/18	<p>Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? The military draft is an important component of the U.S. response to national needs. Currently there is no link between citizenship and military service. We expect our citizens to “support our troops”, and we expect Congress to do the heavy lifting. We expect Congress to decide when we go to war, but it doesn’t do that because a link to citizen participation is missing. A draft would create that needed link. Are modifications to the selective service system needed? It would be better if a selective service system was a component of the U.S. overall service needs, rather than be restricted to military needs only. Social, public service and infrastructure building needs are also very important. How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? Establish a national requirement for all persons to serve two years in some military, social, infrastructure or other public service work – no exceptions. What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? Some people don’t want to do any kind of service. Service needs to be described as a necessary contribution the country expects for all people. Service is expected! Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? Many adolescents have difficulty becoming adults. The U.S. seems to keep young people as adolescents longer than other developed countries. Some required service would help many of them to be ready for adult lives. It would help them become independent citizens that are able to contribute to our nation’s needs. It also enables all of our citizens to have a stake in “making war”. Maybe we would not have “perpetual war” as we seem to have now. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? It must be mandatory. There are many ways to provide service beyond the military. How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? Make it a requirement, and fund it like the AmeriCorp program that also provides funds for further education.</p>
4/13/18	<p>I like the helpful information you provide in your articles. Ill bookmark your weblog and check again here regularly. I'm quite certain I will learn plenty of new stuff right here! Good luck for the next! Gegcdkdgkfb</p>
4/13/18	<p>When choosing the colours for you office, there are a few basic points to consider. Dkfdgegdced</p>
4/13/18	<p>Comment 1: People who register for the draft as required by law at age 18 should have the option of checking on that card that they are conscientious objectors and/or that in the event of a draft they want to perform alternative humanitarian service rather than military service. Comment 2: The alternative humanitarian services available to people choosing that option should be run by civil agencies. Comment 3: In the event of a draft, people choosing to perform an alternative humanitarian service should receive compensation for that service equal to that given to people who choose to serve in the military.</p>
4/13/18	<p>Modifications to the selective service system are indeed needed. It is my belief that public service does indeed have merit, and would like to see the following changes:</p>
4/13/18	<p>(I previously was composing a comment and when I hit the "tab" button, the incomplete comment was submitted. I will try again here.) I do think public/community/military service is valuable to young people and to the country. I would like to see 18 year old men and women register for public service of two years , either in the military or in alternative community service. Such alternative community service should provide the same benefits the military service provides. In addition, registration for such public/military/community service should provide an option to register as a conscientious objector to military service. Community service could involve service such as working for non-profit organizations, in arts organizations, with health centers, etc. Thank you. Maggi Boyer, [REDACTED] Doylestown, PA [REDACTED]</p>

4/13/18	A draft contingency is still necessary for our national security. Drafting additional forces may become necessary due to unforeseen events like 9/11 or Pearl Harbor. Such events will not allow the time necessary to implement a draft system. Selective service must already be organized and ready; requiring only the approval of our Nation's leadership. Furthermore, women must be included in the draft. All citizens must bear this responsibility equally. During recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, women were exposed to the same dangers as men. We must acknowledge that warfare in the 21st century rarely has a front line. All soldiers will be in harms way. The armed forces are open to women and homosexuals on an equal basis. The draft should be the same. If a potential draftee can perform the basic tasks of serving in uniform, then gender and orientation should not be factors in who may be drafted. All Americans must be required to register for selective service. Only the! n will all Americans have an equal stake in national security.
4/13/18	1. A military draft or draft contingency is not necessary. Most of the people who served on the gulf wars were national guards people and served voluntarily. I believe a voluntary force is a more motivated and effective force. 2. We do not need a selective service system. Participation in military operations should be entirely voluntary. 3. You can increase participation in national service by increasing the ways in which people can serve, such as working in under served communities in the US as teachers or doctors, providing opportunities to do conservation work, or some other kind of community service. You could also offer one year of college loan forgiveness for every year of public service. 4. The barriers are that not everyone seeks the military as a way to serve the country. Many young people have too much debt from their educations to focus on anything but making money. 5. Service knits us together as a society and helps us understand people we might otherwise not have contact with. 6. No. Not nescessary, feasible or valuable, especially if the commander in chief is seen as erratic. 7. See answers 3 &4.
4/13/18	If we are truly free citizens, we should have the right to conscientiously object to war and military service. I would leave the US, my beloved home, before fighting in a war. Give us citizens a chance to be peacemakers and call on us, as such, in times of need.
4/14/18	No, a military draft or draft contingency is not a necessary component of U.S. national security. The selective service system should be eliminated. If the selective service system is continued, it should be modified to: restore the full rights of people who have not registered with the selective service; officially allow selective service registrants to self-designate as conscientious objectors during selective service registration; and ensure that an alternative, non-military, non-violent service program for conscientious objectors is run by a civil agency and offers the same benefit programs as military service.
4/15/18	Modern problems require a well trained professional force that is not coerced into service but believes in their mission. Untrained people brought in for size of numbers are a hindrance to modern mobile trained armies. The federal government can never discriminate based upon sex.
4/15/18	As the leader of the free world, setting moral norms, we should pursue diplomatic methods to resolve conflict and never rely on military means. In that context, a military draft should never be needed and the Selective Service System should be abolished. Service the nation and humanity has been perverted to military service only. As a nation and government, we should promote a full range of opportunities for young people to serve that go beyond military service as the only option. These options should be completely voluntarily and will succeed in attracting young people if they provide the same benefits as military service (i.e., college tuition) and are recognized and promoted by our government as as the same or more value as military service.

4/16/18 Dear Commission members, I am writing on behalf of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS), a Lutheran church body with over 2 million members throughout the United States, organized in 1847 and headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri. Relevant to this correspondence is the fact that individual laity from LCMS congregations have served in the United States military throughout our history, from the Civil War onward. LCMS lay persons have held positions of leadership on the highest levels, up to and including Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In addition, among the various ministries and services of the LCMS, we have emphasized military chaplaincy. LCMS clergy are currently serving as chaplains in every branch of the U.S. military. We are responding to the “Request for Information” from Kent Abernathy, posted at [Caution-https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=NCMNPS-2018-0001-0001](https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=NCMNPS-2018-0001-0001) < [Caution-https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=NCMNPS-2018-0001-0001](https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=NCMNPS-2018-0001-0001) > . The request indicates that your commission is responsible for conducting a review of the selective service process “to consider methods to increase participation in military, national, and public service in order to address national security and other public service needs of the Nation.” In that regard, you are also seeking “written comments from the general public and interested parties on matters of the Commission's review.” One of the specific topics you have asked the public to address is this question, “Are modifications to the selective service system needed?” We are aware that one modification that has been proposed is to expand eligibility for the “draft” by having all women register for potential military service. Anticipating the possibility of such an action, the 2016 LCMS Convention, a national gathering of representatives throughout The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod that is authorized to formulate and articulate the official position of our church body, resolved to oppose the recent decision of the Department of Defense to employ women in any and all combat positions and also to “oppose any legal action that forces the compulsory service of women in the military, also called the conscription of women, by mandatory participation in Selective Service registration, a draft, or by any other mechanism” (2016 Res. 5-11A—attached). With respect to both the draft and combat, the LCMS convention does not bind the consciences of the women of our church body. If a woman believes she can serve in good conscience in the military, including combat, our church does not condemn her decision. However, the LCMS strongly opposes any action which compels women to serve in the military or, if they are freely serving in the military in other capacities, that compels them to serve in combat. In 2016 Res. 5-11A, the LCMS also asked its official theological commission, the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR), to further address both the matter of compulsory registration for the draft and the decision to place women into combat positions. The CTCR completed this assignment in November 2017 by adopting a report titled *Women and Military Service: A Lutheran Perspective*. The report affirms the official position of the LCMS taken in 2016 Res. 5-11A and provides evidence from the Bible (for example, Genesis chapters 1–2, Deuteronomy 22:5, and Ephesians 5:25) regarding male-female distinctions within the order of creation. It adds additional arguments supported by natural law and human reason to further support and explain the position of the LCMS convention. You may access the full LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations report, titled here: [Caution-https://www.lcms.org/Document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=5067](https://www.lcms.org/Document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=5067) < [Caution-https://www.lcms.org/Document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=5067](https://www.lcms.org/Document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=5067) > . Thank you for allowing us this opportunity to address the matter of military service.

4/16/18	<p>Thank you for allowing us to share our thoughts on the current Selective Service System (SSS). I strongly believe that the military draft is not a necessary component of national security. The current SSS have been insignificant and impractical. There are at least three advantages to a volunteer military force. First, the fine men and women in today's military are motivated to be where they are. This results in fewer disciplinary issues and more efficient training. A higher cost for training non-volunteers would be worsed by the many physically unqualified Americans. Unfit recruits may delay a training program or easily get injured and become patients of the overburdened Veteran's Administration. Finally, our military relies on smaller, mobile formations working with surveillance technology and precision guided weapons. Unlike in past wars where invasions would deploy over 2 million troops, today's operations would never reuire such a large number of military personnel and would possibly hinder a sensitive maneuver. Modifications to the SSS to include national and public services, however, may be extremely beneficial. Programs such as AmeriCorps, PeaceCorps, CitizenCorps, Federal Election Volunteers, National Resource Conservation Earth Team Volunteers, etc., may be popular and prove to be important to U.S. national security. Once these services become better known, Americans of all ages may look forward to registering for the SSS. If a mandatory service requirement be implemented it will be critical to not penalize the few who don't register by making it a felony punishable by a fine or a prison term or both. Service has inherent value if and only if it is provided by participants willing and able to serve. Design the SSS to be creative, positive, rewarding and fun. The respect and funding of national and public organizations must resume immediately to begin increasing awareness and interest in these programs. Conservative politicians have demonstrated total disregard fo rht emission and goals of services that benefit education, public safety, health, and the environment. The eroding of the original mission and goals of the Environmental Protection Agency is just one example. Once the non-military services component of the SSS is established, it must be carefully implemented as to not become similar to the Hitler Youth organization in Germany in which thousands of youth were indoctrinated to Nazi ideals. Participation in service by individuals with critial skills would increase if the jobs pay well, contain benefits (including repaying school loans), offer status, continually challenge participants, match individual talents and skills, offer career advancement, and provide a satisfying work-life balance. Involvement may increase when and if the SSS is safe for all men and women. It must make every effort to prove that it is truly free of discrimination, harassment, intimidation and bullying of all protected groups.</p>
4/16/18	<p>"Our principle is... to seek peace, and ensue it, and to follow after righteousness and the knowledge of God, seeking the good and welfare, and doing that which tends to the peace of all. All bloody principles and practices we do utterly deny, with all outward wars, and strife, and fightings with outward weapons, for any end, or under any pretense whatsoever, and this is our testimony to the whole world." Declaration to Charles II, 1660. Text from the 2nd Vol. 8th and Bicentenary Ed. Of Fox's Journal, London: Friend's Tract Association, 1891 Historically, Friends have as our principle, to work for peace, believing that there is of God in each person. We support non-violent methods of conflict resolution. Thus, we oppose military conscription and selective service registration in principle. We consider the present requirement of conscription and selective service registration to be too expensive for states to operate, and unnecessary, due to the advancement of technology. Repercussions for non-compliance are too steep for those committed to non-violent means to solve conflict, and the cost to the military is too high when those of such persuasion are incorporated into the war effort. The addition of women to the roll of the registered would only heighten those costs, to us all. It is our intention to promote human welfare here in the States, and in the world at large. To reduce suffering inflicted by violence, through education, through medicine, through ecological preservation, though democratic participation, and sustainable development programs; to make our world a better place through non-violent means. We support legal accommodation for the right of Conscientious Objector Status, and oppose the usage of our tax dollars for the war effort. Make accommodation for those who would seek to serve their country though alternative means to that of the military, and you'll get the compliance you seek.</p>

4/16/18	From [REDACTED] Dear Commissioners: I fully support the comments made by Quaker House of Fayetteville, NC. In particular, I urge that registrants to the Selective Service system be allowed to self-designate as conscientious objectors if registration is maintained. I also urge that any alternative service program be run by a civil agency, and provide the same benefits as military service. Thank you for your consideration, John MacDougall
4/16/18	As a Veteran of the American War in Viet Nam, and after learning about the lies by the government leading the United States into that war, I have become a person who believes that conflict should be resolved by peaceful means, not by resort to violence. Violence only begets more violence. My participation in that war, harassing and shooting at Vietnamese served no purpose, except to prolong the war. Over 50,000 Americans were killed in Viet Nam, and perhaps 3 million or more Vietnamese (mostly civilians) were killed. For what purpose? It is with this conviction, that I encourage the Commission to not only not draft women, but to end the draft registration all together. If draft registration persists, then Conscientious Objectors should not be required to register. Further I would encourage the Commission to grant full rights to any service person to make a claim as a conscientious Objector, at any time during their service. Bud Haas Bradford, VT
4/16/18	1.) I believe the military draft is a necessary link in our chain of National defense. 2.) It is under budgeted and undermanned for the mission it has. 3.) Incentivize participation with either money or benefits of service. 4.) Time and money to support the individual and there family. 5.) Yes, giving back to the community is a gift when you can do so either in time or money. Resources available to expend vary by person. Not all can afford the time nor all money. 6.) No, going mandatory service for all will increase the amount of "fake" institutions and "fake" service programs and projects. We don't need an increase in fraud in government programs. Have valid and worthwhile programs and ample positions for those who want to serve. 7.) Have incentive programs like college scholarships, priority processing for the military, apprenticeship opportunities for government jobs after serving.
4/16/18	Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? No, of course not. Nobody has been drafted since 1973 and there is no realistic situation where military conscription would be necessary or effective. Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Yes, it should be abolished. Without any realistic need, from any point of view, selective service registration is unnecessary, expensive, and burdensome. This is a free country! Nobody should be forced to participate in military violence against their will. In particular, conscientious objectors must be accommodated so that they can express their beliefs without harassment or punishment. Furthermore, Selective Service registration must not be linked or coordinated with other government programs, which should be available to everyone. How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? Participation in public service can be encouraged by inspiring leadership, clear goals, and effective programs that serve everyone, with particular attention to persons who are in need. The current administration has none of these qualities. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? No, obviously not. The government bureaucracy required for universal mandatory service would be cumbersome and expensive, with no clear benefit. Unwilling participants would do more harm than good. If such programs were implemented anyway, conscientious objectors must be accommodated. In particular, if Selective Service registration continues, then conscientious objectors must be given an opportunity to express their convictions at the time of registration.

4/16/18	<p>A military draft is still needed- inexpensive manpower insurance. The major modification needed-include women as equal responsible citizens. The constitutionality of excluding women, decided in 1981 in Rostker v Goldberg is no longer valid as the DOD lifted the combat exclusion of women. As young people become aware of national service and our nation provides a menu of opportunities for citizens between 18 to 26 years to serve for at least two years, young people will see and seek the advantage of serving and gaining needed training, skills, certifications and choices for personal growth. The number one reason verified by a recent study showed that excluding women from the Selective Service Act decreased participation in military service. Our nation should focus on minimum of 2 years of voluntary service for all with some continuing with the current military concept of a full 20-year career. Incentives as mentioned below. A primary barrier to participation is a lack of different functional areas to serve in non-military service along with workforce development factors and lack of awareness of opportunities plus the small number of positions available. Service is essential in a country with a democratic form of government, a participatory government; not a spectator government. Offer job training to enhance the ability of young Americans to obtain well-paying, meaningful employment. Provide incentives during and after serving such as a GI Bill, loan forgiveness and a VA home loan. Support a National Service Movement for young people ages 18-26 years. A very viable national service program would provide for opportunities to young people between the ages of 18 to 26 to serve a minimum of two years nationwide. Have national service be the over-arching collection of military service, international service programs such as Peace Corps and domestic service programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCCs) and other corps to be listed primarily categorized by much-needed functional areas such as a Care-giving Corps. All-volunteer, National Service Program might look like: Domestic programs like AmeriCorps, VISTA, Equal Justice Works, Teach for America and Children’s Corps, or serving—public and private—that focus on nursing, cyber security, cultural anthropology, languages, care-giving, and journalism; Infrastructure rebuilding (reactivate the Civilian Conservation Corps(CCCs); International programs, i.e. Peace Corps; Service in the US Armed Forces, with a focus on recruiting more women into the military. Incentives: Lodging, uniforms, healthcare and stipends; Domestic and international travel; Exposure to new people, places and ideas; Education and training in civil and social skills. After 2 years of service, offer loan forgiveness; GI Bill; and VA-type of home loan. This bold undertaking will require bold commitments to achieve bold outcomes. However, nothing less than the future of our nation—and kids—is at stake.</p>
4/16/18	<p>A military draft is still needed- inexpensive manpower insurance. The major modification needed-include women as equal responsible citizens. The constitutionality of excluding women, decided in 1981 in Rostker v Goldberg is no longer valid as the DOD lifted the combat exclusion of women. As young people become aware of national service and our nation provides a menu of opportunities for citizens between 18 to 26 years to serve for at least two years, young people will see and seek the advantage of serving and gaining needed training, skills, certifications and choices for personal growth. The number one reason verified by a recent study showed that excluding women from the Selective Service Act decreased participation in military service. Our nation should focus on minimum of 2 years of voluntary service for all with some continuing with the current military concept of a full 20-year career. Incentives as mentioned below. A primary barrier to participation is a lack of different functional areas to serve in non-military service along with workforce development factors and lack of awareness of opportunities plus the small number of positions available. Service is essential in a country with a democratic form of government, a participatory government; not a spectator government. Offer job training to enhance the ability of young Americans to obtain well-paying, meaningful employment. Provide incentives during and after serving such as a GI Bill, loan forgiveness and a VA home loan. Support a National Service Movement for young people ages 18-26 years. A very viable national service program would provide for opportunities to young people between the ages of 18 to 26 to serve a minimum of two years nationwide. Have national service be the over-arching collection of military service, international service programs such as Peace Corps and domestic service programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCCs) and other corps to be listed primarily categorized by much-needed functional areas such as a Care-giving Corps. All-volunteer, National Service</p>

	<p>Program might look like: Domestic programs like AmeriCorps, VISTA, Equal Justice Works, Teach for America and Children’s Corps, or serving—public and private—that focus on nursing, cyber security, cultural anthropology, languages, care-giving, and journalism; Infrastructure rebuilding (reactivate the Civilian Conservation Corps(CCCs); International programs, i.e. Peace Corps; Service in the US Armed Forces, with a focus on recruiting more women into the military. Incentives: Lodging, uniforms, healthcare and stipends; Domestic and international travel; Exposure to new people, places and ideas; Education and training in civil and social skills. After 2 years of service, offer loan forgiveness; GI Bill; and VA-type of home loan. This bold undertaking will require bold commitments to achieve bold outcomes. However, nothing less than the future of our nation—and kids—is at stake.</p>
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4/16/18	<p>A military draft is still needed- inexpensive manpower insurance. The major modification needed-include women as equal responsible citizens. The constitutionality of excluding women, decided in 1981 in <i>Rostker v Goldberg</i> is no longer valid as the DOD lifted the combat exclusion of women. As young people become aware of national service and our nation provides a menu of opportunities for citizens between 18 to 26 years to serve for at least two years, young people will see and seek the advantage of serving and gaining needed training, skills, certifications and choices for personal growth. The number one reason verified by a recent study showed that excluding women from the Selective Service Act decreased participation in military service. Our nation should focus on minimum of 2 years of voluntary service for all with some continuing with the current military concept of a full 20-year career. Incentives as mentioned below. A primary barrier to participation is a lack of different functional areas to serve in non-military service along with workforce development factors and lack of awareness of opportunities plus the small number of positions available. Service is essential in a country with a democratic form of government, a participatory government; not a spectator government. Offer job training to enhance the ability of young Americans to obtain well-paying, meaningful employment. Provide incentives during and after serving such as a GI Bill, loan forgiveness and a VA home loan. Support a National Service Movement for young people ages 18-26 years. A very viable national service program would provide for opportunities to young people between the ages of 18 to 26 to serve a minimum of two years nationwide. Have national service be the over-arching collection of military service, international service programs such as Peace Corps and domestic service programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCCs) and other corps to be listed primarily categorized by much-needed functional areas such as a Care-giving Corps. All-volunteer, National Service Program might look like: Domestic programs like AmeriCorps, VISTA, Equal Justice Works, Teach for America and Children's Corps, or serving—public and private—that focus on nursing, cyber security, cultural anthropology, languages, care-giving, and journalism; Infrastructure rebuilding (reactivate the Civilian Conservation Corps(CCCs); International programs, i.e. Peace Corps; Service in the US Armed Forces, with a focus on recruiting more women into the military. Incentives: Lodging, uniforms, healthcare and stipends; Domestic and international travel; Exposure to new people, places and ideas; Education and training in civil and social skills. After 2 years of service, offer loan forgiveness; GI Bill; and VA-type of home loan. This bold undertaking will require bold commitments to achieve bold outcomes. However, nothing less than the future of our nation—and kids—is at stake.</p>
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4/17/18 Dear Commission Members, This note responds to the NCMNPS's request for comments (Docket No. 05-2018-01). Specifically, it comments on the Commission's charge to review the nation's selective service procedures, notably in light of the initiative that the Senate took in its version of the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2017 to include women in Selective Service registration. In addressing this initiative and other matters related to women in the military, I am speaking as a private individual who has been in close contact since 2011 with chaplain endorsers and other leaders of several Bible-oriented church denominations that have provided advisories to their members about women in the military. I am also speaking as a university professor who currently holds a chair in cultural diversity and who has occasionally worked under contract with the military on human resources matters. I am in touch with senior military officers and former Ph.D. students who do research and teach senior officers on related matters for one of the war colleges. Since I live in Florida, I spoke and corresponded with two of Senator Rubio's senior staff about related matters in the spring of 2017. My experience suggests that there is reason to expect a strong reaction from members of several Protestant denominations to including women in draft registration and perhaps also to voluntary programs that promote sending military women into danger. Several denominations have prepared and approved Bible-based studies recognizing that their members have grounds for objecting to sending women into combat zones or into combat. These studies were prepared by denomination committees and approved at denomination assemblies. Most are advisories for members to consider, whereas some (notably the Southern Baptist study) make government policy recommendations. The conclusions of some studies object to placing military women in danger, whereas the conclusions of others object to having women engage in direct combat. Several studies are especially critical of drafting women. The reasoning in all these denomination studies is critical of sending military women into danger whether voluntary or not. Some studies are quite succinct (e.g., by the Southern Baptist Convention study), while others written for theologians are very detailed (e.g., by the Orthodox Presbyterian Church study). The information provided by the Presbyterian Church in America includes details about debates within the denomination. Perhaps the best mix of thoroughness and readability is the very recent analysis prepared by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. None of these denominations have statements that are critical of women working outside the home or holding military support jobs outside of combat zones. The concerns are about putting women into danger, sending them into combat, and drafting them. Following is a list of these denominations and web links to their analyses and conclusions: Associated Gospel Churches, 2013 (note: AGC is the chaplain endorsing agency for many independent, non-denominational Bible churches) Caution-<http://www.agcchaplaincy.com/mandated-policies> < Caution-<http://www.agcchaplaincy.com/mandated-policies> > Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, 2018 Caution-<https://blogs.lcms.org/2018/ctcr-report-women-and-military-service-a-lutheran-perspective> Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Minutes of the Sixty-eighth General Assembly (2001), pp. 258-282. Report of the Committee on Women in the Military and in Combat Caution-<http://www.opc.org/GA/WomenInMilitary.html> < Caution-<http://www.opc.org/GA/WomenInMilitary.html> > Presbyterian Church in America. Man's Duty to Protect Women. 2001. PCA Historical Center Archives and Manuscript Repository for the Continuing Presbyterian Church. Caution-<http://www.pcahistory.org/pca/01-278.html> < Caution-<http://www.pcahistory.org/pca/01-278.html> > Caution-<http://www.pcahistory.org/pca/aiscwim.html#3> < Caution-<http://www.pcahistory.org/pca/aiscwim.html#3> > Reformed Presbyterian Church, 2004 General Assembly, Resolution on Women in the Military. Caution-<http://www.rpcga.org/documents/Resolution%20on%20Women%20in%20the%20Military.pdf> < Caution-<http://www.rpcga.org/documents/Resolution%20on%20Women%20in%20the%20Military.pdf> > Reformed Church of the United States, 1996. Statement on Women in Combat. Caution-<http://www.rcus.org/women-military-1996/> < Caution-<http://www.rcus.org/women-military-1996/> > Southern Baptist Convention, 1998. Resolution on Women in Combat. Caution-<http://www.sbc.net/resolutions/amResolution.asp?ID=1089> < Caution-<http://www.sbc.net/resolutions/amResolution.asp?ID=1089> > Southern Baptist Convention, 2016. Resolution: On Women Registering for the Draft

	<p>Caution-http://www.sbc.net/resolutions/2271/on-women-registering-for-the-draft < Caution-http://www.sbc.net/resolutions/2271/on-women-registering-for-the-draft > Another denomination, the Reformed Episcopal Church, has similar material available in some of its membership newsletters. While raising concerns about putting women in danger, all these denominations also emphasize the exercise of Biblically informed personal conscience. As the disclaimer at the beginning of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church statement notes, none requires leaders or members to accept the analysis or conclusions of the denomination’s study. Nevertheless, the Commission should be cautious about neglecting the studies because of lack of hierarchical or rule-like control by these denominations. Many members are likely to strongly react to a government policy to include women in draft registration and government volunteerism efforts to encourage children in the churches to reject the denomination studies. The Commission would do well to anticipate the likely adverse response by many members of these groups to such initiatives. The response of military men from these denominations to drafting women is concerning and difficult to predict. At minimum, conscientious objection provisions already in the military (DoDI 1300.06, July 12, 2017) should be reviewed to see that they can accommodate a just war objection to any warfare that places women in the military in danger. Following this letter is a brief professional biography. I have worked on several military-related projects. These include assessing the selection system for the Navy Academy, lecturing to many Army Brigadier and Major Generals about managing intercultural relations, and preparing faculty to teach at West Point. I am also familiar with informed consent issues that are relevant to promoting volunteerism by trying to influence children. I have a sense of obligation to offer to assist the Commission. I believe that I have unusual and perhaps useful experience that allows me to think about the matter of women in the military from the standpoint of both denominations studies and reactions, the academic diversity literature, and a senior scholar’s understanding of what scientific research can and cannot do to address the Commission’s charge. Throughout this note, I am writing to emphasize human reactions to government decisions, but also would be glad to share thoughts with Commissioners who are concerned about the Lord’s reaction as part of the issue of what it means for the United States to engage in just wars. If the Commission decides to follow up on this present letter, I will forward any substantive response to the Chaplain Endorsers and other denomination leaders with whom I am in contact. I am also willing to do my best to virtually or physically meet with the Commission or provide additional information on matters related to the Commission’s charge that are within my areas of experience. The Commission can contact me by e-mail about any aspects of its charge or to arrange a conversation. Feel free to distribute my present note to other interested parties at the Commission’s discretion.</p>
4/17/18	Greetings I was drafted in 1958; I objected for reasons on conscience. I would have done community service instead. I have done community service without the spector of the draft. If a draft encourages others to THINK about what their life is about: possiby an important step.
4/17/18	To whom it may concern, Please abolish selective service and end the draft. Thank you for your time.

4/17/18	<p>A military draft is needed- inexpensive manpower insurance and workforce development. A major modification includes women as equal responsible citizens. The constitutionality of excluding women, decided in 1981 in Rostker v Goldberg is no longer valid as the DOD lifted the combat exclusion of women. When our nation provides a menu of opportunities for citizens between 18 to 26 years to serve for at least two years, young people will seek the advantage of serving, gaining needed training, skills, certifications and choices for personal growth. The number one reason verified by a recent study showed that excluding women from the Selective Service Act decreased participation in military service. Our nation should focus on minimum of 2 years of voluntary service for all. The current all-volunteer service with those seeking a 20 year military career is still valid. Service is essential in a country with a democratic form of government, a participatory government; not a spec! tator government. A primary barrier to participation is a lack of different functional areas to serve in non-military service along with workforce development factors and lack of awareness of opportunities plus the small number of positions available. Offer job training and on-the-job experience to enhance the ability of young Americans to obtain well-paying, meaningful employment. Provide incentives during and after serving such as a version of the GI Bill, college loan forgiveness and a home loan program similar to the VA loan. A very viable national service program would provide opportunities to young people to perform national service through an array of military service, international service programs [such as Peace Corps] or domestic service programs [such as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCCs), AmeriCorps, VISTA, Equal Justice Works, Teach for America and Children’s Corps, or serving—public and private—that focus on nursing, cyber security, cultural an! thropology, languages, care-giving, and journalism; Infrastruc! ture rebuilding (reactivate the Civilian Conservation Corps(CCCs). Incentives: Lodging, uniforms, healthcare and stipends; Domestic and international travel; Exposure to new people, places and ideas; Education and training in civil or military settings, acquiring work and life experience, an understanding of our democracy and social skills. After 2 years of service, offer loan forgiveness to college graduates; GI Bill; and VA-type of home loan. This undertaking requires bold commitments to achieve bold outcomes. However, nothing less than the future of our nation—and kids—is at stake. Military service, the CCC, and VISTA, AMERICORPS and Peace Corps have trained leaders and developed character. Today'ss youth need to appreciate and understand commitment and service in a society were 1% of our population belongs to the all-Volunteer armed services. Mandatory National Service benefits our youth and strengthens our democratic society.</p>
4/17/18	<p>As both a mother of three boys and a college educator, I strongly support a year of public service and/or military service for young adults. I teach Developmental Psychology. Research from the field shows age 19 as a critical age for teenagers making the transition to young adulthood. Some flounder miserably, others flourish. Mental illness rates reach an apex at this age. Criminal behavior also rises. Having a more structured, meaningful, purpose-driven life at this critical juncture is so important. I do think the military needs to move away from heavy emphasis on physical fitness, at least, for some of the recruits who could serve critical positions even if they had physical handicaps. In particular, identifying through school records and other records especially gifted young people, such as those strong in math and science skills and utilizing their services in service to their country would benefit our nation. Some, actually many, are working nights delivering pizzas j! ust to get by and their talents are not being utilized fully, at least, not immediately after high school and during the college years, if they even go to college which not all of them do.</p>

4/17/18	<p>A military draft for all is needed for our national security, to not exclude women. The constitutionality of excluding women, decided in 1981 in <i>Rostker v Goldberg</i> is no longer valid as the DOD lifted the combat exclusion of women. As young people become aware of national service and our nation provides a menu of opportunities for citizens between 18 to 26 years to serve for at least two years, young people will see and seek the advantage of serving and gaining needed training, skills, certifications and choices for personal growth. The number one reason verified by a recent study showed that excluding women from the Selective Service Act decreased participation in military service. Our nation should focus on minimum of 2 years of voluntary service for all with some continuing with the current military concept of a full 20-year career. Incentives as mentioned below. A primary barrier to participation is a lack of different functional areas to serve in non-military service! along with workforce development factors and lack of awareness of opportunities plus the small number of positions available. Service is essential in a country with a democratic form of government, a participatory government; not a spectator government. Offer job training to enhance the ability of young Americans to obtain well-paying, meaningful employment. Provide incentives during and after serving such as a GI Bill, loan forgiveness and a VA home loan. Support a National Service Movement for young people ages 18-26 years. A very viable national service program would provide for opportunities to young people between the ages of 18 to 26 to serve a minimum of two years nationwide. Have national service be the over-arching collection of military service, international service programs such as Peace Corps and domestic service programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCCs) and other corps to be listed primarily categorized by much-needed functional areas such as a Care-giving Corps. All-volunteer, National Service Program! might look like: Domestic programs like AmeriCorps, VISTA, Equal Justice Works, Teach for America and Children’s Corps; Infrastructure rebuilding (reactivate the Civilian Conservation Corps(CCCs); International programs, i.e. Peace Corps; Service in the US Armed Forces, with a focus on recruiting equally women into the military. Incentives: Paycheck, Lodging, healthcare, job experience, feeling of responsibility for the USA; Domestic and international travel; Exposure to new people, places and ideas; Education and training in civil and social skills. After 2 years of service, offer loan forgiveness; GI Bill; and VA-type of home loan. This bold undertaking will require bold commitments to achieve bold outcomes. However, nothing less than the future of our nation—and children—is at stake.</p>
4/17/18	<p>A military draft is still needed- inexpensive manpower insurance. The major modification needed-include women as equal responsible citizens. The constitutionality of excluding women, decided in 1981 in <i>Rostker v Goldberg</i> is no longer valid as the DOD lifted the combat exclusion of women. As young people become aware of national service and our nation provides a menu of opportunities for citizens between 18 to 26 years to serve for at least two years, young people will see and seek the advantage of serving and gaining needed training, skills, certifications and choices for personal growth. The number one reason verified by a recent study showed that excluding women from the Selective Service Act decreased participation in military service. Our nation should focus on minimum of 2 years of voluntary service for all with some continuing with the current military concept of a full 20-year career. Incentives as mentioned below. A primary barrier to participation is a lack of di! fferent functional areas to serve in non-military service along with workforce development factors and lack of awareness of opportunities plus the small number of positions available. Service is essential in a country with a democratic form of government, a participatory government; not a spectator government. Offer job training to enhance the ability of young Americans to obtain well-paying, meaningful employment. Provide incentives during and after serving such as a GI Bill, loan forgiveness and a VA home loan. Support a National Service Movement for young people ages 18-26 years. A very viable national service program would provide for opportunities to young people between the ages of 18 to 26 to serve a minimum of two years nationwide. Have national service be the over-arching collection of military service, international service programs such as Peace Corps and domestic service programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCCs) and other corps to be listed prim! arily categorized by much-needed functional areas such as a Ca! re-giving Corps. All-volunteer, National Service Program might look like: Domestic programs like AmeriCorps, VISTA, Equal Justice Works, Teach for America and Children’s Corps, or serving—public</p>

	<p>and private—that focus on nursing, cyber security, cultural anthropology, languages, care-giving, and journalism; Infrastructure rebuilding (reactivate the Civilian Conservation Corps(CCCs); International programs, i.e. Peace Corps; Service in the US Armed Forces, with a focus on recruiting more women into the military. Incentives: Lodging, uniforms, healthcare and stipends; Domestic and international travel; Exposure to new people, places and ideas; Education and training in civil and social skills. After 2 years of service, offer loan forgiveness; GI Bill; and VA-type of home loan. This bold undertaking will require bold commitments to achieve bold outcomes. However, nothing less than the future of our nation—and kids—is at stake.</p>
4/17/18	<p>1. There is no good reason to have a draft. 2. Modifications are needed: it should be easier for young people to opt out of military service for religious and moral reasons. 3.The U.S. can increase participation by being open to diversity in gender issues and citizens of all faiths and from all countries. 4. First, we don't need a big military. Make other options available and welcome diversity. Make public service rewarding for those with good academic skills. 5. Not sure 6.No. 7.You asked that in 3.</p>
4/17/18	<p>What is the draft? What is military conscription, really? Military conscription is power. It is the power to quickly force large numbers of people into service for war. Military conscription's only use is war. It has no use during peacetime. There is a problem with giving this kind of power to politicians. Politicians are not trustworthy and never have been. 2000 years ago during the Roman Empire, politicians seized power by lies, deception, intrigues, and physical assassination of their rivals. Nowadays politicians seize power by lies, deception, intrigues, and character assassination. The shift from physical assassination to character assassination is about the only progress that politicians have made in 2000 years. To wage war against Vietnam, President Lyndon Johnson and Robert MacNamara fabricated the Tonkin Gulf Incident. U.S. Government documents that were declassified in 2005 clearly show that the Tonkin Gulf Incident was a pack of lies. Having lied to Congress and the American people, President Johnson then used the draft to conscript millions of young Americans and send them off to war against a small, rural nation that was no possible threat to America. Americans killed 3 million human beings in Vietnam, another million in Laos, and another million in Cambodia. This slaughter was only possible because of the draft. Today, America wages war against six different countries in the Middle East, and there is talk of a draft again. However, this series of wars was started by President George W. Bush, who lied about Iraq having thousands of missiles all tipped with chemical warheads. After America invaded Iraq, not one such missile was ever found. Politicians are not to be trusted with the power to slaughter millions of human beings. For this reason, the draft must be completely abolished.</p>

4/17/18	<p>1. I'm not sure. If the draft were conducted fairly and did not favor the well-connected and well-educated, maybe I'd be in favor of being ready with a draft contingency. But the military has been tasked with too many unjustified wars (or "police actions") in which the goals are ill defined and the end is never clearly in sight that I have my doubts. 2. I think it should be clearer that Conscientious Objectors need not serve in a military capacity, but that everyone might need to reckon with public service of some sort. 3. I think we might need to move to national service of some sort, but not primarily military service. If everyone had to serve in some capacity, and I mean all but the disabled, then that might help bind the nation together. 4. Barriers? Well, we'd have to pay for the service of everyone for a year or two. 5. Service, and not primarily military service might help the nation solve major national problems and help younger people to feel that they are contributing to a bigger purpose than just their own private goals. 6. Mandatory service might be valuable if it were broadly defined. 7. I think young Americans would be more willing to serve in the military if the Congress and the President chose worthy goals. The unjustified campaign in Iraq and the endless campaign in Afghanistan cannot persuade most of our young people to trust their commanders and decision makers.</p>
4/17/18	<p>I do not believe that we should continue to have a draft or draft contingency in this country. I believe that we as a country can become safer by reducing our military presence around the world. If we do continue to have the selective service, I think it's very important that EVERYONE be able to indicate if they have a conscientious objection to military service. I am a woman so I never had to register, but my male friends have told me that they had no clear way to indicate their moral objection. It should not be an elaborate process that involves "proof" or writing essays or demonstrating that you are in a religious community or any of that - you should just let people check a box that says something to the effect of "I have a moral or religious objection to military service" and then trust them that they meant it. While I have never participated in military service, I did serve in AmeriCorps for one year in a state-administered AmeriCorps program in Rhode Island. I believe that it is very valuable to offer the opportunity for public service to all Americans. I do not believe that any form of public service should be mandatory. I felt that my year of service was a positive experience because I got to meet many people who were not like me (I'm originally from the West Coast), learn new skills, and contribute my energy and creativity to good causes. I think the combination of local connections and national networks provide a lot of support for the AmeriCorps program and help people, especially young people, become helpful members of communities. It is also a great way to get entry level job experience in professional work that improves communities, and help people get out of being stuck in low-skill service jobs. The main barrier that I saw for participation in AmeriCorps service (similar for VISTA and CityYear) was the low pay. I had fellow AmeriCorps members who had to work second jobs on top of their 40-50 hour per week AmeriCorps positions just to pay their bills and support their families. I felt able to do a year of AmeriCorps service because I had substantial savings - it's not fair to low income and low asset people that AmeriCorps pays less than even a minimum wage job. I think that the United States could increase participation in public service (and reap the benefits of that public service: reading tutors for our children, trees on our streets, new homes for families affected by natural disasters) by giving AmeriCorps volunteers a stipend that corresponds to full-time work for a living wage.</p>

4/17/18	<p>1. A military draft or draft contingency is still necessary for national security. A smaller force with more skillsets hardly ever wins against a larger force, albeit with less skillsets. Many larger countries, like China or Russia, has a large conscript military force trained in rudimentary skills, like small arms, grenades, explosives, tactics, leadership. 2. Modifications are necessary to the Selective Service System. Amongst them, should be an extension to include women, expand the eligible age from 18-60, placing an emphasis on those possessing special skills or currently draw upon government benefits like Section 8 housing, welfare, food stamps, college tuition loans, etc. In addition, an electronic registration (internet/ DMV computer) would be more effective. 3. Rather than the standard enlistment procedures, the US should be more autonomous in its procedures to allow citizens to serve to the best of their ability to a capacity flexible to their daily lives. Tax breaks, government pay / benefits, government housing for providing those services wouldn't hurt either. 4. 75% of young men these days are unfit, illiterate, or have criminal records. Women are currently better candidates to serve the military's needs. Women are in better physical condition, attend higher education in greater numbers (sometimes owing the government hundreds of thousands of dollars), and demands more entitlements from the government. These young men, however, can serve in national or public service like sanitation, demolition of derelict buildings/ rebuilding homes and buildings, infrastructure projects (road building, electrical, water, etc.). 5. Serving the country will instill a pride in its citizens to care for their neighborhood and their neighbors. Citizens who serve the country will be more forbearing of each other's needs and mindful of the demands they place on the country. Those who learn a skill while doing so may be adept in preserving the future of the country. 6. Many, if not all Americans have potential to serve their country in a wide variety of ways. It is very necessary, valuable, and feasible because if not, we have the country we have today - a divided and collapsing country. Back during WWII, we enacted Civil Defense. They did everything - road works, police functions, emergency medical provisions, etc. 7. Expand the punishment for failing to register for Selective Service and/or serving in Military Service, National Service, or Public Service for all genders and individuals to include revocation of voting rights, denial of access to government benefits / ability to hold public office, etc.</p>
4/17/18	<p>I'd like to include punishments for women, either draftee or who voluntarily serves in the military that get pregnant to try and avoid their military service should be punished as a dereliction of duty, dishonorably discharged, with full revocation of pay, housing, benefits, voting rights, etc.</p>
4/17/18	<p>Logic is absent, without precedent, in U.S. foreign policy today. We have no larger threat to freedom than the failure of diplomacy by our current U.S. executive office, bipartisan abandon of responsibility, and judicial wrangling the system for personal benefit. There is no precedent for US military leadership, given the current situation, with an egomaniac psychopath in the executive office, divisive bickering in the legislative sector, and golden absent minded parachutes gifted to our judicial branch. Please don't allow another war of ego supremacy that my children have to die for or be dismembered. Peace, and less personal ego, and more responsibility, equals "Mission Accomplished."</p>

4/17/18	<p>Thank you for allowing us to share our thoughts on the current Selective Services System (SSS). I strongly believe that the military draft is not a necessary component of national security. The current SSS has been insignificant and impractical. There are at least three advantages to a volunteer military force. First, the fine men and women in today's military are motivated to be where they are. This results in fewer disciplinary issues and more efficient training. A higher cost for training non-volunteers would be worsened by the many physically unqualified Americans. Unfit recruits may delay a training program or easily get injured and become patients of the overburdened Veteran's Administration. Finally, our military relies on smaller, mobile formations working with surveillance technology and precision guided weapons. Unlike in past wars where invasions would deploy over 2 million troops, today's operations would never require such a large number of military personnel and would possibly hinder a sensitive maneuver. Modifications to the SSS to include national and public services, however, may be extremely beneficial. Programs such as AmeriCorp, PeaceCorps, CitizenCorps, Federal Election Volunteers, Natural Resources Conservation Earth Team Volunteers, etc., may be popular and prove to be important to U.S. national security. Once these services become better known, Americans of all ages may look forward to registering for the SSS. If a mandatory service requirement be implemented it will be critical to not penalize the few who don't register by making it a felony punishable by a fine or a prison term or both. Service has inherent value if and only if it is provided by participants willing and able to serve. Design the SSS to be creative, positive, rewarding and fun. The respect and funding of national and public organizations must resume immediately to begin increasing awareness and interest in these programs. Conservative politicians have demonstrated total disregard for the mission and goals of services that benefit education, public safety, health, and the environment. The eroding of the original mission and goals of the Environmental Protection Agency is just one example. Once the non-military services component of the SSS is established, it must be carefully implemented as to not become similar to the Hitler Youth organization in Germany in which thousands of youth were indoctrinated to Nazi ideals. Participation in service by individuals with critical skills would increase if the jobs pay well, contain benefits (including repaying school loans), offer status, continually challenge participants, match individual talents and skills, offer career advancement, and provide a satisfying work-life balance. Involvement may increase when and if the SSS is safe for all men and women. It must make every effort to prove that it is truly free of discrimination, harassment, intimidation and bullying of all protected groups.</p>
4/17/18	<p>If the United States were not perpetually attacking other countries people might want to enlist to DEFEND the US. Your inquiry should look at foreign policy and all the justifications for attacking other countries, one after another. Who benefits?</p>
4/17/18	<p>I would have no problem serving in the military if our country, meaning the continental United States, or the States of Hawaii or Alaska were ever attacked by another countries army unjustifiably. To my knowledge the only time that has ever happened was when this country was formed in the late 1700's. I will never serve in the armed forces of the USA as they currently stand, imperialistic, indiscriminately killing civilians in other countries that have never even thought of sending an army to attack us, except in revenge for the dronings/bombings we did to their country first. We didn't need a standing army to beat the greatest nation in the world at the time, and we don't need one now. I will fight draft or not, if the freedom of my country is ever really threatened, because a real American doesn't sit on his hands and wait for someone to tell him if his country is in danger, a real American knows he is just as responsible for his countries freedom a! s any general, and must act when the time comes, orders or not. Thoreau said there are no real men left less than a generation removed from the Revolution. I don't even want to think what he would say now. This country is a shadow of it's former self, restricting freedom instead of fighting for it, shackling it's citizens rather than liberating them, penalizing free speech, rather than supporting it, and shaming God rather than honoring Him.</p>

4/17/18	Get rid of the draft. It causes bad presidents to get us into stupid wars, gets our kids killed for nothing, and causes the US to be hated around the world - including at home. I want all my money to be spent to HELP THE AMERICAN PEOPLE: EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE. Pentagon, change your mission. Thank you. Sherrill Futrell Davis, CA
4/17/18	No one, man or woman, should be drafted. Wars are unnecessary. Dialogue, deep listening and the healing of early hurt is what is needed to end conflict. War is a pretense and is used to make big profits for some and to acquire the resources from other people and countries aka the "enemy" or the "other". Young men and women, mostly the poor and working class are the ones who primarily end up in the military and fight wars, because they have no other choice available to them. Some die and some are physically damaged, All are profoundly hurt emotionally and morally by the experience of war. If a person truly wants to be in the military, that is their choice. We need to focus our energy in making our country, our world a place where every person can have food, clothing, shelter, education and the resources to live a life of creativity and to do work which they love and that provides them with a living wage. Absolutely, there should be no draft.
4/17/18	There should never be a draft in this country again. We have not had a legal, necessary war since WW II. Citizens should not be required to fight in immoral, illegal, politically slanted wars against their will. The military is running this country and that is a dangerous thing. The country is bankrupt from 17 years of corrupt, illegal war, tens of thousands of people slaughtered, 10 trillion dollars of middle class working people's tax money in the pockets of the pentagon, dept of defense and thousands of corporations. This is an embarrassing disgrace! We have lost credibility throughout the world. We have created enemies and people who will rightfully hate us for generations. We have soldiers in 142 countries! What sane country does that? We need to pull out of the Middle East, Africa and everywhere else we are causing trouble. Slash the military budget, close all foreign bases. Concentrate on intelligence, diplomacy, quotas and vetting people entering. The money saved should be spent on free college and medical for our citizens, taking care of our elderly and fixing infrastructure like civilized countries do. Take the old man military influence out of our government and actually have separation of church and state before we become Iran. Most importantly stop all war now.
4/17/18	The 13th amendment forbids slavery and involuntary servitude. That includes the draft. The Civil War saw the use of the draft. Soon thereafter the 13th amendment took effect. No coincidence. We have no need for the large military forces we have. No country nor any conceivable coalition of countries has the expeditionary forces to attempt a viable attack on us. The only weapons we are vulnerable to are nuclear. The solution to that problem is diplomacy. The youth of this country are getting screwed over economically and in every other way. The last thing they need is some kind of forced obligation to do things that deprive them of their freedom and opportunities to pursue what they choose. Stop these current wars, which are illegal and abominable. Bring the troops home and let them protect the country. See "War is a Racket", by MJG Smedley D. Butler, USMC, (retired and deceased) who was highly decorated for valor. The military-industrial-congressional-spy-police state complex is choking the life out of this country. Get rid of it. Don't expand it.
4/17/18	The fact that you are even asking this question shows how totally out of tune you are with the American public. The military industrial complex wants war, the American people do not want war.

4/17/18	<p>I do not believe that wars are the answer to problems in today's world. World diplomacy is the answer. Once we stop engaging in war there will be many extra soldiers with nothing to do. (There will always be plenty of soldiers because for the poor joining the military is often their only way of making a decent wage, getting health care and a pension.) The idea of service should be expanded to really mean service to this country - not just fighting wars. National service should include highway projects, infrastructure maintenance, assuring clean water service to all citizens, maintaining the Nat'l Parks, Head Start and local school projects and providing national health service. This is what I think of as service to one's country. With the trillions saved from disruptive, unwinnable wars we could beef up the NIH, develop new drugs that really work, as opposed to the blockbuster mega profitable copycat drugs Big Pharma peddles. National service volunteers who pass college admission tests should be given free college training in intelligence, diplomacy, leadership and other high skills. We need to get off the bottom of the list of major countries in so many areas. National service should not be compulsory. Young people should not be required to sign up with the Selective Service. With real "national service" we could be a great country instead of the country that spends trillions on wars it can't win, is the biggest arms dealer, imprisons the most people, has the biggest wealth disparity, spends the most on health care but has a lower life expectancy and higher infant mortality than many other countries, has the highest drug costs, has the most gun deaths, etc. etc. Sad to say but I am not proud of the USA. We have gone far astray from Democracy. Corporations and wealthy individuals call all the shots and none of them are interested in national service.</p>
4/17/18	<p>Background Questions (1)The US standing military s/b zero. Selective service draft should not be required at all. If there is a standing army, the draft s/b composed of individuals as follows. The ranks of the most likely to be shipped overseas for extended tours in battle – and in no circumstances at any level of sergeant or above – will be filled with a draft that consists of all family members from the executive strata of companies which benefit from US Government Defence Department contracts, and those parties shall be drafted until 2/3rd of their families are in uniform, with no medical, education, employment status or age exemptions. Family members of those Senators and Congresspersons who voted for war or war authority will also participate in a draft until 4/5ths of those are filling positions also at no level of sergeant or above in those war areas, with no exemptions. People who advocate for war and believe or espouse to believe that their God is on our side shall also be 100% taken into service. (2) Establish the profit margin for military contracts shall be no higher than 10%, and no contracts shall go to any company that does not have both an employee and executive structure that isn't reflective ± 3% of the general US population vis a vis gender, age, and race. Further, no executive shall be recompensed at a level 4X higher than the lowest paid employee, plus all the same medical/dental/and other perquisites. The money previously used by profiteers will be used to educate and provide for the common defence in the form of medical insurance for all. (3) It is not the military's job to provide such training. These can be handled with other structures that Congress can provide – making certain that teachers are the highest paid employee of a school. (4) When every other civilised country already offers educational benefits for free, why are we trying to use the military to compensate? This is inadvisable. Make education through University free, plus give students a stipend to live, then they will develop methods of solving the worlds problems without using military means, and overseas corporate protection rackets won't be needed at all. (1) No; and it never was. US National Security is served by not stirring up hornet's nest that then come back to sting us. (2) Yes; eliminate it. (3) Educating everyone so that they can dispassionately analyse problems and combat them using logic instead of force. (4) Death, extended tours away from family, mutilation without the VA budget to take care of everyone. (5) No. In the rare circumstance that it isn't slavery in the cause of corporate shenanigans, it is easy enough to get up an force to defend the country. (6) No. Not to the culture, or society, not at all. (7) By ensuring that everyone can get the education and skills they require to create a better society that doesn't require war to solve problems and militaries to protect corporate interests abroad.</p>

4/17/18	National service to rebuild public utilities, schools, hospitals, etc is a positive good. People will want to do it assuming they are paid. No need for a draft. However, if service means killing people fighting for land & water, people who are not an actual threat to our security that makes service meaningless.
4/17/18	I object to compulsory service on moral and historical grounds. Our past/present is riddled with militaristic interventions for the purpose of exploiting people and resources in addition to tampering with foreign democracies and supporting dictators out of economic and diplomatic convenience. I am not against fighting nor killing dangerous individuals but I am against resigning my conscience to the will and whim of our government/military which has consistently proven to be at times a murderer, a hypocrite, and a liar. I will not die or kill for a cause I have no belief or trust in. The military demands obedience, which is antithetical to free will (in the compatibilistic sense), skepticism, inquiry, individualism, and liberalism - all ideals we say we value and of which are of ultimate importance to me and any life worth valuing. I will not be cannon fodder for generals and politicians who aren't in the battle themselves and with no skin in the game. Even agreement with the broad goal of militaristic intervention can bring about local and specific moral questions within the larger framework that must be able to be addressed on an individual/circumstantial basis.
4/17/18	The result of having America's many imperial wars being fought by volunteer paid soldiers is that most Americans believe they have no skin in the war game. Most Americans do not even know what wars are being fought at this time, what foreign countries the US has troops in, and what the troops are supposed to be doing. During the Viet Nam war, there was certainly an acute awareness of the war at home and a strong popular movement to end the war. Many people believe that the effective end of the draft was decreed toward keeping the population insulated from the wars being pursued. This has helped bring up the current situation of perma-war, like 16 years destroying Afghanistan for no good reason, with no planned end in sight. I hereby propose to bring back the draft in such a way that most troops are involuntary draftees. When your average 17-year-old faces the real prospect of killing some Muslims in some woebegone corner of the Middle East and risking getting maimed or killed in the process, real awareness of America's imperial wars of choice will be resurrected and may even result in the rebirth of the peace movement.
4/18/18	Dear Commissioners, We, the Hutterian Brethren, also known as the Hutterite Colonies or Communal Mennonites, have deep concerns with the military draft, especially with legislation that has been proposed that would require women to register for the draft. First, to be clear, we realized that government is ordained by God (Mathew 22, Mark 12, Luke 20, 1 Peter 2, Romans 13, 1 Timothy 2) and that we must submit to governmental authority, for us to resist is to resist the ordinance of God (Rom 13.2). We appreciate and support our governments as Christ taught us (Mathew 22.21). "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." So we must pay taxes and obey the law as long as it does not keep us from "giving to God the things that are God's." We are citizens first of the heavenly kingdom, and merely pilgrims on this earth; so we must submit first to His holy will, and second, as He has commanded, to the government of the land of our pilgrimage. We also appreciate our government's allowance of alternative service for conscientious objectors to war, and would highly recommend that there be an option to register as conscientious objectors should the draft be continued. We will gladly serve in projects that are designed for the public good, and not for destruction or vengeance. We have been assured that such programs would be available for women should this legislation come to pass. However, women's role is fundamentally different from man's. This is not due to the whims of man, but by design of our all-wise Creator. Physically and emotionally, woman was created by God to nurture, to be a help meet (Genesis 2), to raise a family. The Apostle Paul exhorts (Titus 2:4-5, etc.) "that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed." We hold this role of woman in family to be crucial for a strong, stable family; and a strong stable family to be crucial for a stable, peaceful society. Furthermore, women are vulnerable in ways that man is not. This vulnerability is illustrated & modesty is encouraged in the history of our patriarchs, Abraham (Genesis 12 & 20), Isaac (Genesis 26), and Jacob (Genesis 30), as well as in the laws of Moses (Deuteronomy 22) & the letters of the

	<p>Apostles Paul & Peter (Titus 2:4-5, 1 Timothy 2 & 5, 1 Peter 3). Likewise in our modern times, we need only skim the news to realize the exploitation of and crimes against women. Therefore, our sisters have stayed within their biblical role of nurturing the family and our young ladies have been brought up within the protection of the family, in preparation of the same crucial role. Once again, this is not due to the whims of man, but in obedience to our all-wise Creator. We feel that the proposed legislation would force us to make a decision between "giving to Caesar the things that are Caesar's" and "giving to God the things that are God's". We could not, with a clean conscience, allow our young ladies to leave the sanctuary of the family and church, even for the proposed alternative services. Please consider our concerns as you make your decision on this legislation. Our daily prayers are that God will guide and protect, both ourselves and our government. Into His merciful hand we now commend ourselves. May His will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.</p>
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4/18/18	<p>I strongly oppose conscription and punishing young men for not registering for the draft -- for example, by denying Federal student aid. I also absolutely disagree with drafting people beyond the age for military conscription for medical and I.T. purposes. No one should be coerced to be in the military. There are many other ways for people to serve their country -- for example, look at how Norway and Germany and other countries handle these issues.</p>
4/18/18	<p>Dear Commissioners, We, the Hutterian Brethren, also known as the Hutterite Colonies or Communal Mennonites, have deep concerns with the military draft, especially with legislation that has been proposed that would require women to register for the draft. First, to be clear, we realize that government is ordained by God (Matthew 22, Mark 12, Luke 20, 1 Peter 2, Romans 13, 1 Timothy 2) and that we must submit to governmental authority, for to resist is to resist the ordinance of God (Rom 13.2). We appreciate and support our government as Christ taught us (Matthew 22.21), "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." So we pay taxes & obey the law as long as it does not keep us from "giving to God the things that are God's". We are citizens first of the heavenly kingdom, and merely pilgrims on this earth; so we must submit first to His holy will, and second, as He has commanded, to the government of the land of our pilgrimage. We also appreciate our government's allowance of alternative services for conscientious objectors to war, and would highly recommend that there be an option to register as conscientious objectors should the draft be continued. We will gladly serve in projects that are designed for the public good, and not for destruction or vengeance. We have been assured that such programs would be available for women should this legislation come to pass. However, woman's role is fundamentally different from man's. This is not due to the whims of man, but by design of our all-wise Creator. Physically and emotionally, woman was created by God to nurture, to be a help meet (Genesis 2), to raise a family. The Apostle Paul exhorts, (Titus 2:4-5, etc.) "that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed." We hold this role of woman in family to be crucial for a strong, stable family; and a strong stable family to be crucial for a stable, peaceful society. Furthermore, woman is vulnerable in ways that man is not. This vulnerability is illustrated & modesty is encouraged in the history of our patriarchs, Abraham (Genesis 12 & 20), Isaac (Genesis 26), and Jacob (Genesis 30), as well as in the laws of Moses (Deuteronomy 22) & the letters of the</p>

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4/18/18	<p>I am a 47 year old male who chose not register. Instead I sent a letter as a consciences objector to be registered with my Bishop in the Episcopal church. As a person who was, according to my mother, born to be a pacifist, I could not serve in the military and I fail to see why at the time when we have had an all volunteer military for 50 ish years we are still registering people. I do encourage public service and could support mandatory conscription IF there was an option between public service (say working in national parks or building roads or serving as a canvasser for the census or ???) The draft is an outdated tool whose time has come to an end and God forbid if we needed it again could at that time be returned to service. In my dream utopia we would have a department of peace not a department of war and all would serve their neighbor.</p>
4/18/18	<p>Subscription for government service should not impose military service. We realize that it is a deranged human proclivity to choose to fight rather than use the instrument given to us: speech and its support in what has been noted in the animal kingdom, feeling. Conversation, compromise are all necessary but not in the military approach. "Government" service is something we need all offer, but not necessarily military. Conscription is also unnecessary and may be counter-productive for those already aware of and engaged in community service. Our hope, as war veterans, is that military service may become unnecessary. Life on the planet will fare better when that happens, as will the planet. The current escalation in military power, worldwide, may please profiteers, as always, but it does not advance culture toward a better way of handling problems. Conscription needs to show a way in the direction of peace and not be condemned to "military only" possibilities. As there are and will be ape-like and belligerent responses that remain in human culture even as they are being faded out, it will be necessary to maintain a defensive military that, in itself and in its training places its being unnecessary as top priority.</p>
4/18/18	<p>Citizens should be entitled to make their own choices about which wars are worth supporting. Neither politicians nor the DOD/Pentagon should be able to invoke a draft for a meaningless war. END THE DRAFT. ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES OF PEOPLE NOT WANTING TO SUPPORT WAR!</p>

4/18/18	<p>Friends, Thank you for inviting our participation in the discussion concerning “the draft” and military, national, public and selective service. To directly answer your published questions: 1. Yes, the military draft is an essential part of US national security. 2. Yes. The selective service must include everyone, including men and women. 3. The US should move to Universal Military Training (3 months should be sufficient and public service (to round out the 2 years term). Entry into the program must not begin until a person has reached the age of 21 and a time window extending to 26 years. That time window should be extended for individuals taking additional education to achieve advanced degrees (eg. Law, medicine, nursing, engineering, etc) provided that they will use those skills during the public service component of the 2 years term. 4. Only the most extreme physical disabilities or legal punishments should be barriers to the program. 5. A universal service to benefit the US as a whole would serve as shared, bonding experience that would help forge bonds of brotherhood between all Americans. 6. It must be universal and mandatory. 7. Everyone would serve. In expansion of my comments above: Three months of training in military skills, concepts and the use of force would insure that all Americans would understand the challenges face in the world and the role of American Armed Forces. Of course after those 3 months, only a fraction of all Americans would be selected for continued military service. Many Americans have moral, religious and ethical reason for not becoming members of the military. Some Americans have physical disabilities that make them too difficult to be effectively used in our military. The manpower needs of the Armed Forces vary from time to time and would rarely need all Americans that are undergoing training. For all Americans not selected for the Armed Forces would be trained and then used for the public service needs of the US. I would suggest training in nursing care and law enforcement are immediately needed. After 6 months of training to acquire the needed knowledge, they could then serve the balance of their 2 years (about 12 to 15 months) sent to posts across the US in hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living centers and law enforcement agencies. Perhaps other programs to maintain public lands, or infrastructure building or the numerous of other needs of the Country would be established. For those individuals that chose to extend the time window to gain advanced education, after their 3 months of military training, they might take roles as doctors, lawyers, nurses, etc in either Armed Forces or public service organizations. Thank you for reading my input.</p>
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4/18/18 Pertinent to Docket No 05-2018-01, I would like to submit the following comments regarding the military Draft, compulsory military or national service, and suggestions for improving the rate of military volunteering. Thank you for this opportunity. Back in 1966, having graduated from high school in 1965, the Vietnam War was escalating and I was facing the Draft. I was involved in a skilled trade apprentice program, I had long hair and a set of drums and I was just waiting to be discovered as America's answer to The Beatles, and I had a girlfriend. I had absolutely no desire to be a soldier. My desires did not matter in the least. Finally, to avoid being drafted and sent to Vietnam, I enlisted to get my choice of training. I ended up in Vietnam in September of 1967, aged 19. Simply stated, the sights I saw in the army, both in the US and in Southeast Asia, were at odds with everything I had ever been taught about right and wrong. I wore the uniform, so I was a participant. I was discharged (honorably) in 1967, a Sergeant E-5. In 2012, I finally went to the VA, was tested, and was found to have "severe PTSD." In the spring of 2015 I took part in a VA "Cognitive Processing Therapy" course at the VA Medical Center in Salem, Virginia. There were five of us taking the course: four Vietnam veterans and one Iraq War vet. I was surprised to find that all of us Vietnam veterans were most bothered, and most traumatized by the fact that we had been taken, at a very young age, against our will, and sent into combat situations in Southeast Asia. Every one of us felt if it could happen once, it could happen again. The instructors wanted us to focus on one traumatic "war" event, but the truth was none of the horrific combat scenarios we had witnessed were as lasting or traumatic half a century later as being pursued and taken against our will by the Draft. I do not believe any government has the right to force any of its citizens into servitude, and especially military service, against their will. Certainly NOT America, where we are supposedly more free than the citizens of any other country. Since Vietnam, the US has pursued a series of conflicts and military adventures that have been terribly ill-conceived, often illegal, and terribly immoral. In Southeast Asia, American actions killed between 3.5 and 5 million people, the vast majority of them impoverished peasants. We subjected them to the most intense bombing in the history of warfare, and such terrible weapons as napalm, white phosphorous, flechette or "bee hive" artillery rounds, cluster bombs, and Agent Orange. More than 85% of the bombs dropped on Vietnam were targeted on South Vietnam, supposedly our ally, and an impoverished agricultural country. The "war of attrition" did not persuade the Vietnamese to give up their fight. It did not "win hearts and minds." It only increased their resolve, and they finally defeated us. The same thing is clearly happening in the Middle East. Our military has not won a victory since World War II, more than 70 years ago. Our modern weapons and tactics have killed millions of people around the world. Young American soldiers, seeing the suffering and destruction, cannot live with their memories or their consciences. They joined the all-volunteer military for the best of reasons, but the sights they see are too often too horrible to live with. We lost 58,315 killed in action in Vietnam. It is estimated that significantly more than 200,000 Vietnam veterans have taken their own lives since returning home. The Pentagon no longer reports the number of suicides among active-duty troops, but by every indication it is obvious that the numbers are unprecedented, and increasing. The care available to veterans via the VA is totally inadequate. These truths are known, and today's young people are not stupid. They are not enlisting in our military because it is a terribly threatening, demeaning, and often immoral experience. The best way to increase enlistments in the all-volunteer military would be to make the experience more rewarding. End the cruel and unnecessary wars. Last year we bombed seven countries! We have over 800 installations around the world. Many of our "covert" activities are being kept secret, not from the local populations, but from the American people. Renditions and tortures are simply immoral, and when our young people see that type of activity they tell their friends and family members, and enlistments are certainly affected. The concept of American "exceptionalism" does not make such activities right or moral, and there are many costs incurred when our government or military pursues such policies. We need to end our efforts to control the world. Throughout history, no nation that tried to conquer the world has succeeded, or survived. America is in decline, and only a return to an environment of basic respect for all other human beings promises to really "Make America Great Again." Bombing and warfare do not enhance their basic rights to "life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

4/18/18	<p>We, the Hutterian Brethren, also known as the Hutterite Colonies or Communal Mennonites, have deep concerns with the military draft, especially with legislation that has been proposed that would require women to register for the draft. First, to be clear, we realize that government is ordained by God (Matthew 22, Mark 12, Luke 20, 1 Peter 2, Romans 13, 1 Timothy 2) and that we must submit to governmental authority, for to resist is to resist the ordinance of God (Rom 13.2). We appreciate and support our government as Christ taught us (Matthew 22.21), "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." So we pay taxes & obey the law as long as it does not keep us from "giving to God the things that are God's". We are citizens first of the heavenly kingdom, and merely pilgrims on this earth; so we must submit first to His holy will, and second, as He has commanded, to the government of the land of our pilgrimage. We also appreciate our government's allowance of alternative services for conscientious objectors to war, and would highly recommend that there be an option to register as conscientious objectors should the draft be continued. We will gladly serve in projects that are designed for the public good, and not for destruction or vengeance. We have been assured that such programs would be available for women should this legislation come to pass. However, woman's role is fundamentally different from man's. This is not due to the whims of man, but by design of our all-wise Creator. Physically and emotionally, woman was created by God to nurture, to be a help meet (Genesis 2), to raise a family. The Apostle Paul exhorts, (Titus 2:4-5, etc.) "that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed." We hold this role of woman in family to be crucial for a strong, stable family; and a strong stable family to be crucial for a stable, peaceful society. Furthermore, woman is vulnerable in ways that man is not. This vulnerability is illustrated & modesty is encouraged in the history of our patriarchs, Abraham (Genesis 12 & 20), Isaac (Genesis 26), and Jacob (Genesis 30), as well as in the laws of Moses (Deuteronomy 22) & the letters of the Apostles Paul & Peter (Titus 2:4-5, 1 Timothy 2 & 5, 1 Peter 3). Likewise in our modern times, we need only skim the news to realize the exploitation of and crimes against women. Therefore, our sisters have stayed within their biblical role of nurturing the family and our young ladies have been brought up within the protection of the family, in preparation of the same crucial role. Once again, this is not due to the whims of man, but in obedience to our all-wise Creator. We feel that the proposed legislation would force us to make a decision between "giving to Caesar the things that are Caesar's" and "giving to God the things that are God's". We could not, with a clean conscience, allow our young ladies to leave the sanctuary of the family and church, even for the proposed alternative services. Please consider our concerns as you make your decision on this legislation. Our daily prayers are that God will guide and protect, both ourselves and our government. Into His merciful hand we now commend ourselves. May His will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Sincerely,</p>
4/18/18	<p>I am a veteran of US Army during the Vietnam Era and have very strong feelings about these matters. A requirement for National Service by citizens of all sexes, with a provision recognizing the right to opt for non-combat service on religious/ethical grounds, would be acceptable...IF ONLY the United States was able to wean itself off waging undeclared-by-Congress wars against peoples of color thousands of miles from its borders, peoples who have never attacked US territory. US foreign policy now consists of military policy only. Its actions only guarantee new generations of people abroad will grow up hating this country. The doctrine of "American Exceptionalism" is utterly insane and must be abandoned! If I had a draft-age son and conscription was reinstated, I would, as a veteran who has seen the US military from the inside, urge him as strongly as possible to not become a tool of aggression. Many of our nation's Founding Fathers were opposed to having a standing army. If they could see what's become of the military today, with its obscenely bloated budget and sweetheart contracts with suppliers, I very firmly believe they would be absolutely horrified. They'd probably renounce their citizenship in protest!!</p>

4/18/18	I do not support registration for a military draft. I am a Christian and believe in democracy. I have lost faith in our politicians who treat corporations with the same rights as individuals. I do not support the killing on innocent women and children as is happening when drones and missiles are used that cannot distinguish between combatants and innocent citizens. I believe that an individuals should be able to decide whether he or she is willing to fight in a war. I do not trust the politicians, or in the present case, our so-called president to make the decision on whether people can be killed. Congress needs to decide whether a military strike is necessary or not.
4/18/18	End the draft now.
4/18/18	Dear Sir / Madam: Service? Democracy? Are you still unaware that the enemy is within? Really? http://www.amazon.com/11-Truth-Implications-S-Guzman-C-ebook/dp/B00GEIKLPQ/
4/18/18	I believe all Americans need to serve the nation if they are able. Two years of public service could be an important part of achieving adulthood.
4/18/18	Dear Sir / Madam: You mean you still don't know the enemy within? Who are you working for? http://www.amazon.com/11-Truth-Implications-S-Guzman-C-ebook/dp/B00GEIKLPQ/ https://youtu.be/5IJeemTQ7Vk Docket No. 05-2018-01
4/18/18	End the draft!!!
4/18/18	Only in times of war declared by Congress should there be a draft. There needs to be several different ways a person may serve, not just in an active military position. And I don't want to see the United States in another War. Thank you for listening.
4/18/18	Docket #05-2018-01 Only in times of war declared by Congress should there be a draft. There needs to be several different ways a person may serve, not just in an active military position. And I don't want to see the United States in another War. Thank you for listening.
4/18/18	The draft is not a comfortable thing for the young, but I think we need it. A citizen army keeps the government honest, a volunteer army is really nothing than more than a mercenary army. However, there should be an option for public service so that the young are not forced to kill if it is against the beliefs they hold dear, thanks, Guy Liston
4/18/18	The selective service system should be eliminated. If it is not eliminated, the application form should have a clear way to register as a conscientious objector, and conscientious objector status or choosing not to register should not rule out availability of federal educational financial aid. Also, rules should apply equally to men, women, and transgender individuals, and those of all economic levels. I would like to see nonviolent service not required, but strongly encouraged. Making sure people who serve are paid a living wage would reduce one barrier to service. I think training people in peacekeeping techniques, with an emphasis on defusing conflict rather than killing people, would be valuable. I do not know how widespread such training is for police, but if and where it is lacking, it would be good to have such peacekeepers work with the police on such skills.
4/18/18	Some form of national service should be required of all 18-20 year old men and women. Be it military, community National Parks, etc.. Having this foundation will prepare our young men and women for a successful start in life.

4/18/18	<p>National Commission on Military, National and Public Service Attn: RFI COMMENT DOCKET - 05-2018-01 Five Rivers Friends is a monthly meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) that has approved the following comments for the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service. Since the founding of our religion, the peace testimony has been central to our faith and practice. We hope that the comments we provide will assist the Commission in consideration of the future of selective service, the draft and public service. Our understanding that “there is that of God in everyone” prevents us from participation in war. Conscientious objection to war is necessary as Friends adhere to our basic testimonies. Friends and members of other peace churches have served in numerous capacities and locations, managing heavy workloads in remote areas. Some of these assignments have included forest fire fighting, digging latrines, caring for mentally ill and developmentally disabled people and providing medical services. Conscientious objection service continues to provide a path for those opposed to war for religious reasons to provide support. There have been unequal efforts to recruit for peace-focused vs. military focused service. While we understand that military recruiters are empowered to review confidential student records to select potential military recruits, no such effort is expended on recruiting students for AmeriCorps or other non-military service programs. We feel that non-military services would attract more young people if they knew about them. We recommend a shift of resources from military to non-military service recruitment. Many citizens are unaware that the draft still exists and could be authorized and actualized by order of the President. We recommend increased transparency and discussion about this matter in the Congress and in the press. We recommend that the required registration form include a conscientious, non-military service option. We encourage the Commission to extend the comment period, and to include the opinions of young people aged 17 years, as they are directly impacted by the Commission’s outcomes. Last night at Conway City Council a high school senior was recognized for service to the community. She had personally impacted 20 different non-profit service organizations and raised a staggering amount of money to support these groups. The motivation to provide service takes many forms. For too long the military service option has been the only advertised path for young people who are not ready for post high school education or unable to afford the costs. Five Rivers Friends Meeting strongly urges the Commission to address peace-focused service options that are in keeping with the morality and faith-based teachings. Grace Gifford Clerk Five Rivers Friends Monthly Meeting P.O. Box 1746 Conway, South Carolina 29528</p>
4/18/18	<p>April 18, 2018 - My comments concerning Agency/Docket Number: NCMNPS Docket No. 05-2018-01 1) The Draft need not ever happen again unless the U.S. is directly attacked on the soil of our fifty states or any protectorates by another power. 2) The selective service system is a joke filled with liars who will tell young people anything they want to hear to get them to enlist. Telling a lie one time to a recruit should be grounds for the recruit to be released from service honorably if the recruit so desires and it should result in significant penalties for the liar. Then there's the absolute unfairness of a system which lets people like Donald Trump NOT serve when others have to. And exactly how many congress people have sons or daughters in the military? And those in power are happy to constantly yammer for more war when they haven't served either. 3) Our "national security" is being imperiled every day by all the heavy handed police and military actions we take around the World, holding innocent people without trial for years in places like Guantanamo, indiscriminate killing of women and children via drones, and, in fact, several senior military personnel have told the military exactly that over the last number of years. As for "other public service needs of the nation" who are you kidding!?! Why isn't the military in helping restore Power to and rebuilding Puerto Rico?? 4) The "barriers" to service include the marines routinely killing their own recruits at Parris island, and all of the above listed injustices committed by the U.S. (ESPECIALLY the killing of women and children). Then the are rapes committed by military superiors of subordinates, the overall tolerance of a rape and abuse culture within the entire military, and rapes of young women in places like Okinawa. 5) Service COULD HAVE inherent value IF it were all volunteer and people in the service were treated with respect and honor AND if the military would STOP killing innocent people all over the World. 6) Absolutely NOT for all of the above reasons. 7) Fix all of the above so that "service" is seen as just that. Nobody</p>

	wants to kill women and children any more except, of course, the sick gamers you recruit to be drone operators. Let me guess: You tell them it's just a game and they are "practicing" when they are actually killing and they never realize they are actually killing? Because if they DO KNOW what they are doing they are some seriously sick fucks. My name is Michael Warner and my address is [REDACTED] and I approve the above message.
4/18/18	A military draft is unworthy of a free society. It is a form of slavery. No one should be compelled to fight in any war, nor serve involuntarily. It is time to end the practice of sending young people to fight and die for corporate profits.
4/18/18	<p>1) Draft registration has been a failure and burden on millions of men. It's time to end it now. In many states, registration is linked with access to driver's licenses and state ID's, threatening access to the ballot box for people of conscience. If a man fails to register, many of these penalties stay with him for the rest of his life, even though he will never have been charged, tried or convicted of any crime! This is not only unconstitutional, it's antithetical to the values we hold dear in our democratic society. Rather than continue this extra-judicial punishment for men or extend it to women, it's time to end it for all! 2) Selective Service registration is a failure. When given a choice, most men don't register. · SSS reports only 88% compliance with registration. That means millions of men are permanently burdened and punished by failing to register. Only 73% of 18 year old men have registered, far fewer registered by the 29th day after turning 18 as required by law. 66% of did so by coercion, not will, as the law instructs, either to get financial aid for college or to get a driver's license. 3) The cost of Selective Service registration exceeds the \$25 million Selective Service budget: e.g. have the burden of verifying registration compliance for students, increasing their administrative costs, which get passed on to students at the college. Various state laws requiring registration compliance for state benefits (such as employment) add costs to a state's budget, yet offer no return on the investment. Extending registration to women would increase those costs. 4) Draft registration is unnecessary. After 9-11, the military had more than enough volunteers. Activating the draft was never seriously considered. Alternatives to this burdensome system currently exist. In the unlikely event of a "sudden need" for more military personnel, with today's technology a pool of names could be generated quickly and easily for a potential draft (and more cheaply than the current ongoing registration). 5) If the Commission finds that registration has value and should continue, they must require Selective Service provide a pathway for people to register as conscientious objectors, and restore full rights to all people of conscience by overturning lifetime punishments. This would enable people of conscience to be in compliance with the law and true to their conscience.</p> <p>6) Though failure to register is a felony, the government has not prosecuted anyone since 1986. Allowing people to register as conscientious objectors, the government may come closer to reaching its goal of increased compliance.</p>
4/18/18	End the draft. It is not needed any longer. Make it a job by those who want to join active service and pay them fairly like any other job.

4/18/18	I served in the U.S. Air Force, and enlisted. I am OPPOSED to the draft. The Draft makes it entirely too easy for politicians to initiate "wars of convenience," and with a draft, young people cannot "vote with their choice" to enlist...or not enlist...as the see fit. This is especially true just now, when we are starting to initiate hostilities, and some in the White House would like to initiate wars in at least two different places (North Korea and Syria).The draft can be reimposed by Congress, quite quickly, if we were actually threatened on our own soil by an erstwhile invader. It should NOT provide a standing military force that can be abused by unscrupulous or war-mongering elected officials. Democracy means freedom to choose. Young people should not be coerced--against their will--to engage in hostilities at the whim of some elected official(s).
4/18/18	A military draft is still needed- inexpensive manpower insurance. The major modification needed-include women as equal responsible citizens. The constitutionality of excluding women, decided in 1981 in Rostker v Goldberg is no longer valid as the DOD lifted the combat exclusion of women. As young people become aware of national service and our nation provides a menu of opportunities for citizens between 18 to 26 years to serve for at least two years, young people will see and seek the advantage of serving and gaining needed training, skills, certifications and choices for personal growth. The number one reason verified by a recent study showed that excluding women from the Selective Service Act decreased participation in military service. Our nation should focus on minimum of 2 years of voluntary service for all with some continuing with the current military concept of a full 20-year career. Incentives as mentioned below. A primary barrier to participation is a lack of different functional areas to serve in non-military service along with workforce development factors and lack of awareness of opportunities plus the small number of positions available. Service is essential in a country with a democratic form of government, a participatory government; not a spectator government. Offer job training to enhance the ability of young Americans to obtain well-paying, meaningful employment. Provide incentives during and after serving such as a GI Bill, loan forgiveness and a VA home loan. Support a National Service Movement for young people ages 18-26 years. A very viable national service program would provide for opportunities to young people between the ages of 18 to 26 to serve a minimum of two years nationwide. Have national service be the over-arching collection of military service, international service programs such as Peace Corps and domestic service programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCCs) and other corps to be listed primarily categorized by much-needed functional areas such as a Care-giving Corps. All-volunteer, National Service Program might look like: Domestic programs like AmeriCorps, VISTA, Equal Justice Works, Teach for America and Children's Corps, or serving—public and private—that focus on nursing, cyber security, cultural anthropology, languages, care-giving, and journalism; Infrastructure rebuilding (reactivate the Civilian Conservation Corps(CCCs); International programs, i.e. Peace Corps; Service in the US Armed Forces, with a focus on recruiting more women into the military. Incentives: Lodging, uniforms, healthcare and stipends; Domestic and international travel; Exposure to new people, places and ideas; Education and training in civil and social skills. After 2 years of service, offer loan forgiveness; GI Bill; and VA-type of home loan. This bold undertaking will require bold commitments to achieve bold outcomes. However, nothing less than the future of our nation—and kids—is at stake.
4/18/18	When you say, "You should submit to the draft", you're saying, "You should let the politicians decide for you." It's time to end drafting Americans to kill, when the world has changed to peaceful cooperation. Through negotiation, countries agree to maintain peace (case in point - N and S Korea talking about unification thanks to our president). There will be enough men and women who volunteer to serve in the military, especially if service benefits increase, more Americans will sign on. No one who lives in a free country should be forced to participate in the horror of war.
4/18/18	The Vietnam War should be proof that the draft is not a good way to staff the military. The all volunteer military has proven to be much more successful than an a military of forced recruits who are not motivated to serve. However, a public service program similar to the 1930s WPA program could be useful to many who could learn job and social skills in such a program.

4/18/18	<p>Re: NCMNPS Docket No. 05-2018-01 The object and effort of our government should always be to reduce violence in our society and our national intention. Accordingly, our actions domestically and throughout the world should be such that we decrease the use and promotion of organized violence--such as the military in all its forms--as a desirable default for resolving disputes and problems. Our nation *should* make itself a signatory to and fall under the legal aegis of the International Criminal Court (ICC), as the failure of the United States to participate and be subject to its determinations contributes to degradation of international law and peaceful prosecution of crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the like. Finally, we should act to dramatically shift our present outlay of monies for misnamed national "defense," which in actuality is simply a gigantic industry devoted to producing weaponry. The USA is unfortunately the leading actor in the world when it comes to international sales and export of weaponry--a "number one" we should not be proud of. As of this writing, the USA provides modern weapons to a number of despotic governments using those weapons to kill countless civilians, including children--Yemen being one sordid example. In short, the emphasis on the military and militarism--and the draft, the promotion of military service, and the glorification of killing--all do harm to our nation, awash as it is with mass murders and the promiscuous spread of weapons throughout American society. We should consciously work to reduce the size and scope of our military, reduce and end our unrivaled network of bases across the world, which make us less secure and engender fear and enmity toward our nation. It would be only as a joke that the United States today could be referred to as "peace-loving," for there is no other nation in this world that has our record of almost unbroken aggression, subversion, and undermining of democratically elected governments that displease our wealthiest corporations. The military and our purported "defense" is, as General Smedley Butler famously remarked, "a racket," one that should be permanently put to bed. Maybe, if we undertake this turn, we will still have resources and time enough to save our world from global ecocide. It is going to be a close contest, and we need to exert every effort we can to this end. Mother nature doesn't care at all how many missiles we have, and there is no military that can protect us from environmental catastrophe. Real defense of our nation requires *this* as our focus--not the routine Rambo mentality that has brought us to our present condition. If we do not disarm, we will *be* disarmed--by environmental catastrophe and collapse. The choice needs to be made now, for we have been fiddling while the world burns.</p>
4/18/18	<p>Support true equality. If men have to register for the draft, so should women.</p>
4/18/18	<p>1. NO 2. Get rid of it. Threats and punishments are un-American. 3. Only voluntary service is fair and based on true patriotism. 4. Distrust of government based on history of recruitment trickery, and false excuses for committing blood and treasure to wars. 5. NONE 6. NO 7. It cannot by the nature of the beast and past sins; because it has no credibility. So far the threats of punishment and attempts to prosecute those who are morally or politically opposed to war has increased resistance to compliance with the registration program.</p>
4/18/18	<p>End the draft. If republicans want to create wars they need to send registered republican voters to fight it or go fight it themselves. Period.</p>
4/18/18	<p>Ladies/Gentlemen: There should be NO DRAFT or, in case there is a draft on paper IT SHOULD NOT BE EXTENDED. Let those who want to serve enlist in Military Service do so VOLUNTARILY. However, nobody should be forced. In case there is an imminent attack, people will volunteer by the droves - as they did during WWII. Let all those patriots put their service where their mouth is. REGARDS!!!</p>
4/18/18	<p>A draft is a distinct form of slavery [see 13th Amend. "...nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime..."] As slaves could be punished, mutilated, even murdered for attempting to escape - nothing has changed. If this country were to be attacked, i'm sure a draft would not be necessary. If a draft is instituted then the first ones drafted should be those who not only instituted the draft but those who want to have this country involved in any war. "...mandatory service...for all Americans [is neither] necessary, valuable, [nor] feasible"! We are not put on this earth to "serve"; government is</p>

	instituted to serve us. If we are ever attacked we will practice self-defense and defeat our attackers or become like all vanquished nations [see: japan, germany and viet nam today].
4/18/18	Docket No. 05-2018-01 I am opposed to the existence of the US military draft. Surely, the big-money, CIA-drug-triangle-interests-backed, Johnson-McNamara Gulf of Tonkin hoax-deception used as a phony excuse for US invasion of Vietnam should serve as sufficient warning that as long as forced-servitude by US youth is available to corrupt politicians' corporate-greed-induced evils, American youth of military-service age ARE AT LETHAL RISK! Supposedly draft-induction into military service is "voluntary." One "volunteers" to "step forward." IN FACT, when I was inducted back in the late 1950s, our group was warned that "God help you if you don't step forward!. We cant force you to, you're free not to, but we can sure as hell make you wish you had if ou don't! " This "advice" was offered by the military official in charge of the "ceremony." I served two years. My test scores designated me as a HAP. The 58 000 American lives and millions of Vietnamese lives EXPENDED in the US capitalism carnage and he millions of children who were, thus, cut off from even being born because of the deaths of these would be parents are on the heads of the greed- and ambition-infested and infected rot at the head of US power structures at the time and give the lie to the false belief there is a bible-god and son. Need I add that the UNJUSTIFIED, INSIDE-JOB 9/11 SET UP EXCUSE for the Afghanistan and Iraq invasions was simply another atrocity of the US government, carried out because of the Bush Administration's confidence that it had all the power needed to ENFORCE all military needs required by resorting to the draft!
4/18/18	Commission: I believe the military draft is unnecessary. I have both political reasons, and also scruples for religious reasons, but to the point: our country is using military force on too many fronts, as a substitute for persuasion through diplomatic and economic means. Also, we aren't using the power of joint action with allied (or possibly allied) countries as much as we might, despite the evidence of the effectiveness of such diplomacy, such as that tied to economic sanctions, that we have utilized. The U.S. can play a leadership role in the world, but the mindset that believes we are "the cops of the world" is a retrograde one, based on a brief historic period when many countries were damaged by major wars and other disasters, and we had a disproportionate amount of resources, military and otherwise. To ignore the development of previously backwards nations into world players (e.g. China) is foolhardy. The Chinese are playing their economic "hand", to influence many countries, better than we are. As for universal service, I oppose a mandate, but support much more emphasis on positive reinforcement for public service. This would include both needed training for a spectrum of public positions, as well as sufficient wages to attract the workforce available. Such a program would, obviously, have a dual benefit. It would encourage public service, and stimulate our economy overall. Many jobs in public agencies can be translated into work in non-governmental enterprise.
4/18/18	I believe that the draft no longer serves any purpose in modern American society. Our military is largely made up of volunteers and there is no real reason to conscript young people anymore.
4/18/18	Please end the draft. It is illegal -- involuntary servitude. It orders people to fight in illegal wars which are later discredited. Men not volunteering is a form of vote against these wars.

4/18/18	<p>No, selective service and the draft are neither necessary nor desirable. We should use diplomacy rather than missiles, and close down our far-flung bases. We should require Israel to cease its illegal occupation of Palestinian land (the West Bank) and its blockade of Gaza, as preconditions for U.S. financial aid and diplomatic support. Doing these things would reduce the need for a standing army by 95% or more. We could save countless tax dollars, which could be used for education, healthcare, repair and replacement of our failing infrastructure, renewable energy, and other things that would genuinely help us as a country. Involvement in wars destroys our young people as surely as those they fight against. Service – civilian, NOT military – does have inherent value. I would support a one-to-two-year mandatory service requirement for all healthy and capable young people, either after high school, after two years of college, or after college graduation, provided this were NOT IN ANY WAY military. It should instead be constructive, i.e., teaching, healing, home building, clean water installation, organic farming, environmental clean-up, or any other valuable, positive work, and could be done either here in the U.S. or abroad. This would be a tremendous resource and would benefit the young workers as well. Instead of risking their lives and health and forcing them to harm others, as the military does, it would actually enrich their lives and build self-esteem.</p>
4/18/18	<p>Citizens should be entitled to make their own choices about which wars are worth supporting. Neither politicians nor the DOD/Pentagon should be able to invoke a draft for a meaningless war. END THE DRAFT! ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES OF PEOPLE NOT WANTING TO SUPPORT WAR!</p>
4/18/18	<p>I am an honorably discharged veteran of our armed services, USAF 1976-1980. (1) Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? No. (2) Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Yes. It should be abolished. (3) How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? By convincing individuals with these skills, using logical argumentation, that their participation in the military would indeed serve the needs of the nation. It is not in the least clear to me that my own service in the Air Force served the needs of the nation. The needs of "defense" companies, perhaps, but not the nation. (4) What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? Now that Don't Ask, Don't Tell is gone, very few barriers exist vis-a-vis the military. For national or public service, some patriotic Americans, such as myself, are often rejected because of our political views. (I am a Marxist.) As long as one can do the job, that is the only thing that should count. (5) Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? Too broad a question: some service, yes, but other service no. Depends on what you are doing. (6) Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? No, no, and I hope not. My belief is that mandatory service of any kind violates the 13th Amendment. (7) How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? Stop using the military to wage illegal wars, and punish those, like George W. Bush and his neocon allies, for breaking international law by launching illegal wars of aggression. A lot of American servicemen and servicewomen died needlessly in Iraq and in Vietnam. The time has come to bring those accountable before the international bar of justice to stand trial for their crimes. When young people see that those who misuse their service will be held liable, that would certainly encourage some to volunteer for said service.</p>
4/18/18	<p>Gathering information via Selective Service is a privacy intrusion into people's lives. A draft would be a dangerous move as swept up into a group handed weapons you get people not agreeing to take action threatening or harming innocent people worldwide. This sets the stage for people becoming mentally-stressed to the point of some breaking, as we've been seeing. In every war where the U.S. has been aggressor, we have stories of soldiers having mental breakdowns and killing themselves, and often killing others at their bases, or elsewhere. I work in a clinic serving Vets and many of them have expressed that they were drafted and have suffered debility their whole lives as a result. Not only is this cruelty to them, but this results in untold money being spent on healthcare for the Vets who do not commit suicide (a rapidly-growing number). A draft never should take place. If a war</p>

	might seem "just" to some, they will sign up to go. If few see a war as "just", resulting in people not joining the military, that should give even those not outright opposed to war food for thought about whether the planned actions should in all rights be abandoned.
4/18/18	In answer to the questions posted: 1. A military draft is only needed to force people to fight a large-scale war that lacks popular support, which I therefore oppose. Even a contingency for such a draft is unjustifiable and should be discontinued. The solution is to not maintain a force level and global base network that is intended for fighting aggressive wars of choice. The historical record show that our military hasn't fought a war that could be considered defensive in over 60 years. We would never need a draft if that were not the case.. 2. The Selective Service System should be done away with entirely. 3. The country will be strengthened and made more secure by diverting money from the bloated military budget to fund civilian public service jobs. 4. The main barrier to participation in the military is the non-defensive missions given to the military, which diminishes people's propensity to enlist. The barrier to non-military public service is primarily the lack of sufficient budgeting for such jobs. Programs like AmeriCorps, for example, should have a quadrupled budgets. 5. The only kind of service that has inherent value is service the enriches the lives of people who suffer because of their low socio-economic status. Jobs that are designed to harm people and destroy communities are not truly what I consider to be "service." 6. If a government confiscates people's labor for any purpose, it is by definition acting without consent or legitimacy. "Mandatory service" is an oxymoron and does not deserve the "service" label. When people willingly give their labor for the welfare of others, then it may be considered service. 7. Through education, give young people encouragement to work toward improving other people's lives, and fund opportunities for them to do so. Stop militarizing the term "service." Define it broadly, so they understand that it means things like being a teacher, a solar installer, a labor organizer, an EMT, a letter carrier, a firefighter, a scientist, a journalist, a daycare worker, or a person in many other occupations that help enrich other people's lives.
4/18/18	Hi: I am a veteran. We have a volunteer Army and I don't remember anyone getting drafted in recent years. During the Civil War a man could buy his way out for \$300. Today the children of wealthy parents don't have to worry about their children fighting and dying. The wars of this country are now fought by the poor. If we had a draft or a mandatory service requirement we would have fewer wars.
4/18/18	The Selective Service System should be suspended. In the event of an attack on American territory DoD branches will be overwhelmed by young people offering to enlist. A voluntary civilian service should be established that provides substantial incentives for those who complete service.

4/18/18	<p>1. At the age of 61, I remain in lifelong opposition to any form of a military draft. If the military treated it's volunteers better, I might reconsider, but between the military and the government, soldiers are lied to and then thrown away after they've served. They do not receive the pay and benefits they are promised at recruitment, and they often do not get the medical care they need after returning from our consistently unnecessary wars. 2. Given the means to fight wars presently available, there is little need for any form of a military draft. If there were a possibility to allow those who prefer peace over murder to serve as a domestic Peace Corp which could help Americans right here, I would support that alteration. 3. Treating all American soldiers with the dignity and respect that all humans deserve could go a long way toward increasing participation in volunteering for military service. Our military and government have an egregiously poor reputation for failing to do so. 4. I think that has already been covered above. 5. Service that is accepted with gratitude has more value than that which is disregarded as is the current position our government and military have chosen. A Peace Corp alternative to military service would have even greater value to our society. 6. Mandatory service is not necessary. Military or domestic Peace Corp service could be used to train many Americans in skills that would benefit our entire nation, and that would have considerable beneficial value. Such an approach is entirely feasible as was demonstrated back in WWII and before that during the era of the New Deal. 7. Under the current paradigm there is no way to increase the propensity of any Americans to volunteer to serve in any capacity. That paradigm must be abolished if we wish for any age group, but especially young adults, to feel a greater sense of duty toward their nation - which is comprised of We, The People. Both our military and our government seem to have forgotten that the total strength of our nation is entirely dependent on the complete health and well-being of it's people. We are not consumers, taxable entities, or collateral damage; we are Americans. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p>
4/18/18	<p>Here are thoughts for your consideration: 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. In the unlikely event of a "sudden need" for more military personnel, it is reasonable to assume that, with today's technology, a pool of names could be generated quickly and easily for a potential draft (and more cheaply than the current ongoing registration). SSS registration should be discontinued. If the SSS is to be continued, the SS should contain an option to register as 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 drivers license, qualify for financial aid in advanced education, governmental employment, etc. Removal of such penalties should be retroactive. In regard to Question 4. What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? - The barriers to military service may include serving in undeclared, unconstitutional military actions, loss of freedom, loss of educational opportunities, health, family, personal necessities, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Moral Injury, Military Sexual Assault and violation of personal life philosophies. The question if barriers to non-military service also include the loss of timely incremental personal development; for some people service is more appropriate later in life. All of the barriers to service can be mitigated by transferring large parts of the military budget to good public education, health care, infra-structure needs, etc. fulfilling the needs of a modern society.</p>
4/18/18	<p>Selective Service registration should be discontinued. In the unlikely event of a "sudden need" for more military personnel, it is reasonable to assume that, with today's technology, a pool of names could be generated quickly and easily for a potential draft (and more cheaply than the current ongoing registration). SSS registration should be discontinued.</p>

4/19/18	<p>(1) the need for a military selective service process, including the continuing need for a mechanism to draft large numbers of replacement combat troops; I will be honest here and tell you that based on how untrustworthy our government is about sticking to defense of the US, rather than imperialism abroad, any imminent risk of instituting the draft over me or anyone I care about would cause exodus from the country. Drafting large number of people when our country is actually under genuine attack is one thing. Drafting large numbers of people to decide who rules other countries for better oil prices and trade deals for wealthy people is violence against everyone involved at every level, and not acceptable use of the draft. (2) means by which to foster a greater attitude and ethos of service among United States youth, including an increased propensity for military service; Actually meet the needs of the people to such an extent they are grateful for that action. This would require a complete reversal of most policies that protect the wealthy and steal from the poor and middle classes. We haven't had an American dream to be grateful for in my lifetime, and I thus do not feel any gratitude to the country I have to fight endlessly to get my needs met. You might find a few suckers more willing by paying for their schooling and providing transition services to find them jobs. But given how many vets are living on the streets, I wouldn't be willing to believe in the value of that service out the other side at the moment. (3) the feasibility and advisability of modifying the military selective service process in order to obtain for military, national, and public service individuals with skills (such as medical, dental, and nursing skills, language skills, cyber skills, and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) skills) for which the Nation has a critical need, without regard to age or sex; and As long as you require them to go through basic training and can't promise they won't die on the front lines, you're going to fail here. And even then, the vast majority that I know with those skills would easily get one of a variety of medical or other deferments. You don't actually have a process for working with smart, rather than physically capable people. And many, in fact most, are not both of those things. And as long as the pay is terrible and their lives are at risk, and they don't believe in a single war we've been in in our lifetime? Yeah, you don't want to draft those people and see what happens when they follow the letter but not the intent of a demand for service. You will not have willing participants in those areas as long as you use military actions the way you do for weapons of mass destruction that don't exist, to bomb places you've warned you're bombing, to send them into countries we've screwed to fight civil wars for the oil economy and other dubious purposes. We would have to stop being abusive police force for the world before those capable people might find something honorable at all in serving in your military. Also, as a woman, there's not a chance in hell I would be or would have been willing to put up with basic training. It's abusive, and I would move to Mexico or put a bullet in my head first. (4) the feasibility and advisability of including in the military selective service process, as so modified, an eligibility or entitlement for the receipt of one or more Federal benefits (such as educational benefits, subsidized or secured student loans, grants or hiring preferences) specified by the Commission for purposes of the review." Secured loans is not remotely enough. Complete full ride schooling might be for some. Hiring programs outside the other end might be for some. Making it a way to expunge criminal records might be for some. But I have known too many military families. They can't find housing they can afford, they can't get decent medical care for slightly unusual problems, they're trapped seeing doctors who are abusive without recourse, they're constantly dealing with a sub culture of violence, the domestic violence issues are ridiculous, the stress to the families is extreme, and we don't value what they go through with lifetime job assistance, or housing assistance, or any of the many things they deserve for putting up with such a nightmare. And on top of that, we send them places for American greed, not because we should be involved in every battle around the globe.</p>
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4/19/18	<p>(1) Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? I don't believe it's ever been the best idea, personally. People who are hostile to the task they are forced into are going to either die easily or sabotage you. That being said, you could make a non compulsory program that includes options other than violence and boot camp, where people get benefits for being part of the program, like free college and job assistance. But until it has a peace corp wing, any draft is going to create a scenario where a lot of us are utterly unwilling and will find a way out. (2) Are modifications to the selective service system needed? It should either be abandoned or changed so that no one is forced to kill people against their ethics, and it has inclusive non-physical paths with some self determination about focus, like whether they focus on medical training or technical training, etc. (3) How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? Stop requiring basic training. Pay well. Actually defend America, not attack other places on behalf of every greedy business man in the world. Stop arresting them for finding holes in your security and being honest with the public when you're violating ethics and the law, or common sense. Allow them selective paths through the military. Eliminate their lack of autonomy over combat participation. Dramatically improve how sexual assault and discrimination are handled so they are believed and the problem removed immediately, and always have multiple avenues of reporting. Give them valuable lifetime benefits out the other side. Be part of the global solution, not part of propping up the next even more heinous regime the world over. Allow them to work on a contract basis as they have periods of availability and unemployment. Offer it as an exchange program for buying their homes out of bankruptcy during financial hard times, or similar forgiveness or payment of extreme debts. People used to join up partially because they believed it gave them a solid future. One only needs to look at the homeless population and suicide rates to know that was a pipe dream these days. Unless you fix that, you won't see real talent. You will see people lacking better choices. (4) What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? Not wanting to die to protect oil prices, and other similar idiotic but actual reasons for war. Not wanting to work for little pay, and no guaranteed future. Not wanting to be part of the infrastructure creating giant corporate greed suppliers the world over, and killing people. Not remotely respecting our government or what they do for the people. Not wanting to deal with the nightmare of moving all the time, lacking choices in doctors, and other disgusting things that happen to military people. Not wanting to let the government decide what you learn or experience. Not wanting to put up with the domestic abuse from spouses who are military and stressed and broken. Not wanting to end up with PTSD. Not wanting to be trapped in 4 years of service when a moron gets elected president. Not wanting to be broke for years. Not wanting to kill people. Not wanting to kill people. Not wanting to kill people. (5) Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? Would it be possible to develop a peace corps like program of government service that had inherent value? Sure. Do we have anything remotely like that, or anything that has inherent value now? Not so far as I can tell in most cases. (6) Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? As it is framed now? No. Could there be such a thing with choices and inclusiveness and service that isn't about violence, and that provides actual value out the other side, as well as government support, sure. (7) How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? See the answers above. I ask the kids at my house, and their answer is that they are not interested in being part of violence in the world, and do not believe in war as the primary solution to problems. Respect is earned, and the US and it's military are not earning it with the American people. I say that respecting the soldier willing to die for a cause, but not the larger institution who is wildly out of sync with American expectations of being decent and non-violent people to the world wherever genuinely possible, and in taking care of the population in the US first, before spending more than half the budget on war all over the world. When we have textbooks in every classroom, well paid teachers, a complete overhaul of farming in favor of the small local farm, renewable energy, an end to oil and gas and it's associated wars, gender equality, an end to ignoring sexual and domestic violence, when our prison systems aren't warehousing people of color for crimes white people aren't</p>
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	<p>arrested for, and when black and brown people aren't being killed by police at alarming rates, and everyone can hope to avoid dying of climate change, when everyone has social security safely and universal health care, I'd be happy to talk about military service. Until then, we have a war to fight at home against our money going to foreign wars first, and money being sucked off by extractive and deadly corporate greed. Until that day, I would find means to fail to be part of any draft, and encourage every American to do the same. We are being destroyed to enable destroying others, and we want no part of it.</p>
4/19/18	<p>The essence of the draft is fear of prison: an intentionally fostered fear. Prison as a feared or forced alternative to service of any kind is antithetical to the very spirit of service and voluntarism — be it military, civilian, Peace Corps, Conservation Corps, community, missionary, whatever: imagine young Mormons threatened with two years of prison if they didn't put in a two-year stint of proselytizing. As a pacifist draft resister imprisoned 1964-66, and earliest draft card burner (1963) of the Vietnam era, I nonetheless supported Selective Service, and so testified to House and Senate Committees in 1963 — provided it had no enforcement clause. Instead, a Service card could be automatically mailed to all residents upon their 18th birthday, with flourishes and prestige and coming-of-age imbued, and a congratulatory covering letter itemizing a wide choice of services, and call-up dates — with no penalty or imprisonment expressed or implied. In this concept, the Selective Service System would be the national clearing house and recruiter and organizer for all manner of mass voluntary service of varied durations and kinds, local to federal, with no favoritism to any one branch, civil or military — and no criminal prosecution for abstainers. This kind of voluntary Selective Service would be based on foundations of honor, patriotism, and respective</p>

	<p>realms of national and personal prestige. The notion of counterposing it with prison would be as antiquated and cruel as British impressment ere the War of 1812.</p>
4/19/18	<p>(1) Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? I know Congressman Thornberry, Chairman of the House Armed Service Committee, June 2016, proposed the DOD review of the Selective Service System; he expressed “wishful thinking” that low-probability high-catastrophe events will never happen to the citizens, government of the United States; and if such events happen that civil society under today’s tribal social warfare will not remain, or move towards tribal unrest, societies stagnation and breakdowns. That the idea of a “National Security Human Resource Insurance Policy” like the current Selective Service System is truly needed when the Department of Defense has hundreds of billions of taxpayers money to be prepared to deal with any human resource needs; that might occur in the future. As a freshman in college who after a period of reflective thinking, consideration of options, as the call of the draft system lottery numbers got closer, I came to understand 2 truths about me and military service. That I did need to contribute some form of civic service to at least honor those of the past, but that I did not want the Federal Government to teach me “program me” how to kill effectively. So, I joined the Air Force, serving in the medical field. My experiences related to the edges of the Yom Kipper War, at Wright-Patterson AFB, made me realize bad things happen, that nuclear war should always remain only a theory, that gasoline lines mean energy conservation needed to become a national security priority. Still due, but few seem to agree. Yes as my letter from Selective Service System, a year after 9/11 shows it his a cheap but very important national security human resource insurance policy that the U.C. Congress should only cancel if it fully believes in trusting other nations to never disrupt our economic and civil society. (2) Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Yes, keep draft as national security human resource insurance policy for the United States of America. Strongly consider expanding mission into a means of reflective thinking about the values that are important towards maintaining and improving our civil society, and its idealistic goals outlined in the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution. See redundant reminder statement below for my highest issue of consideration that needs to be added.</p>
4/19/18	<p>To Whom it May Concern, Just as a citizen has the right to serve in the military, they also have the same equal right not to serve. For this reason, the draft and the Selective Service program need to be abolished. It goes against American values and the Bill of Rights to force someone to do something that is in direct opposition to their most deeply help moral, spiritual, and religious values. The military draft goes against the values of liberty. For these reasons, I would never comply with any sort of draft or military participation, including providing any sort of skills that would support war efforts and the killing of our fellow human beings. There are many other people who feel the same way. War is much more complicated than simple self-defense, because in war an individual cannot make their own decisions as to how to defend themselves, who to defend themselves against, and in what manner to defend themselves. A soldier is told who is and who is not their ‘enemy,’ rather than deciding for themselves. In truth, there are no true ‘enemies,’ and the death of any human being is a tragedy. War is a sign that everything has gone wrong, and there is no such thing as a ‘successful’ mission or a ‘victory.’ When we are killing each other, we all lose. “Weapons are instruments of fear; they are not a wise man’s tools. He uses them only when he has no choice. Peace and quiet are dear to his heart, And victory no cause for rejoicing. If you rejoice in victory, then you delight in killing; If you delight</p>

	<p>in killing, you cannot fulfill yourself. ...This means that war is conducted like a funeral. When many people are being killed, They should be mourned in heartfelt sorrow. That is why a victory must be observed like a funeral.” Tao te Ching verse 31</p>
4/19/18	<p>America A#1!!! We will kill anything, anybody, any child, you name it - FOR YOU! And or we will give you all the death mechanisms you need, charge the taxpayer who has ZERO choice in the matter (since we don't enforce U.S. Constitution rights here, we just pretend or do if we're forced - no worries) We spend 99.4% more on killing than negotiating. Dialogue is poison to our corporations and death factories, so we snowball the public 24/7/365/decades on EVERYTHING! It's awesome here! The sarcasm and utterly tragic truth I described above is why I, AND WHY YOU, should be clearly opposed to the new Authorization for the Use of Military Force 2018 introduced by Senators Corker, Kaine and several others. WE OWE IT TO CHILDREN ON THIS PLANET TO MAKE MAKE MAKE MAKE PEACE HAPPEN, AND YOU DO NOT EVER, YOU NEVER, YOU CANNOT DO that WITH BOMBS and PUTTING HOLES IN FLESH. WE MUST WAKE UP. And nevermind that this AUMF is 100% unconstitutionally generated and therefore is ILLEGAL. Peace? From my blooodthirssssty rotten nation I volunteered to die for? Yeah, right. Good luck (or shouldn't we all say "good night"). Here's to children: Bye bye. America A#1. May God forgive us for what we just will simply not stop doing, ever - - killing.</p>
4/19/18	<p>Here are thoughts for your consideration: There is no need for conscription. Since the disaster of 9-11, enlistment has filled the military's quotas for recruits. In the unlikely event of a "sudden need" for more military personnel, it is reasonable to assume that, with today's technology, a pool of names could be generated quickly and easily for a potential draft (and more cheaply than the current ongoing registration). SSS registration should be discontinued. If the SSS is to be continued, the SS should contain an option to register as 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 drivers license, qualify for financial aid in advanced education, governmental employment, etc. Removal of such penalties should be retroactive.</p> <p>In regard to Question 4.What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? - The barriers to military service may include serving in undeclared, unconstitutional military actions, loss of freedom, loss of educational opportunities, health, family, personal necessities, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Moral Injury, Military Sexual Assault and violation of personal life philosophies. The question if barriers to non-military service also include the loss of timely incremental personal development; for some people service is more appropriate later in life. All of the barriers to service can be mitigated by transferring large parts of the military budget to good public education, health care, infra-structure needs, etc. fulfilling the needs of a modern society. In order to preserve democracy and freedom for our nation's youth, please discontinue SSS registration.</p>

4/19/18	<p>Dear National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service: I am writing to express my beliefs on the issue of the Draft in any form. I am a Family Physician, serving a rural need area with 30 years in practice.</p> <p>I deeply believe each person must be able to evaluate the propriety of service and how to offer it according to their values and spiritual beliefs. For example, I am a Conscience Objector to participation in war or any other destructive government operation, and reserve my innate right to decline all participation, including alternative service, in the event of a draft of healthcare workers or other category of person I might fall into. On the other hand, I deeply believe in service to humanity and it is part of my daily spiritual practices, and everyday activities. The current system which recruits impoverished youth and those with an incomplete understanding of US Military activities and culture is imperfect, but at least (sort of) voluntary. A mandatory service or draft I believe would be a disaster for many youth for a myriad of reasons including loss of autonomy to follow their own orders and beliefs, wasted time from their other pursuits of study and training, exposure to radioactivity, warfare and other dangers of the modern military, and delaying their self efficacy development by being in a military/chain of command situation. As a Family Doctor, I advise them it is potentially bad for their health. Thank you for your kind consideration,</p>
4/19/18	<p>Thank you for this opportunity to offer my comments on military, national and public service. I live in Akron, Pennsylvania. As a Mennonite I grew up in a family and church that integrated the way of nonviolence and peacemaking into my belief system. My ultimate loyalty is to God and the worldwide community of faith trusting the strong, redemptive power of God's love. Upholding these values, I interrupted my college education in 1964-1966 to perform two years of alternative service as a conscientious objector to war. Under the auspices of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), I volunteered at a school for emotionally disturbed boys from New York City. I served with other conscientious objectors my age who had been drafted and had also volunteered to do alternative service with MCC. As an expression of their commitments to service and peace, women who had not been drafted also served voluntarily in MCC assignments both in the United States and abroad. War violates the very purposes for which I live. I believe that each human being in the world was created by God and, as images of God, must be respected and nurtured. I am called to build communities of peace that break down walls built by racism, nationalism and economic inequality. The United States is too quick to think in terms of military solutions—the belief that guns and drones can save us—the implicit trust that violence is somehow redemptive. More creativity in solving problems by embracing our common humanity with the rest of the world would better serve both U.S. citizens and the international community. The National Priorities Project indicates that "a 10 percent cut in spending on military contractors would provide enough money to hire 395,000 elementary school teachers or provide health insurance for 13 million children." Congress appropriates more for U.S. military spending than the next eight countries combined! Yet, year after year, it refuses to adequately invest in infrastructure, alternative energy and access to quality education and healthcare for millions of Americans. While the arms industry continues to make out like bandits, programs that provide essential services for most Americans remain drastically underfunded, as do development and diplomacy programs that help end wars and prevent them in the first place. My experiences and values prompt the following comments on service: The most meaningful service is voluntary, not mandatory. Conscientious objectors to war are willing to serve in challenging places and can make significant, positive contributions to the peaceful and secure world that we all desire. The present-day requirement to register with Selective Service should be abandoned. It only exists to support a return to mandatory conscription which I oppose. It also creates burdens for those conscientious objectors who cannot cooperate with a system that sends conscripts to war. Rather than increase the numerous problems that exist with our current Selective Service System by extending the registration to women, the wise choice is to end registration altogether. If the Commission fails to end Selective Service registration, they must allow people to register as conscientious objectors and restore full rights to people of conscience. I encourage voluntary, peaceful service under civilian direction which already exists. Let's expand it to foster a culture of voluntary service.</p>

4/19/18	<p>I am unable to attend any of the hearings that have been or will be held by the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service regarding a requirement to register for a potential draft into the armed forces of the U.S.A. should congress decide send people, without their consent, to kill others. These comments are due on Patriots' Day, which commemorates the battles at Concord and Lincoln, Massachusetts that began the American Revolution. As we remember that war, we should remember that those who fought for freedom from British rule were not drafted. They joined the Continental Army because they believed in the reason for that war. If today's citizens believed that the military help the USA was offering was needed to solve a problem that could not be resolved peacefully, they would join the forces. If they did not believe that we should be fighting - anywhere or just for a particular reason -- they would not. Without draftees, forced into the military and not wanting to be part of it, there would be sufficient, committed volunteers. There is no need for what the commission's charge referred to as "a military selective service process (commonly referred to as 'the draft')." The Selective Service System is an unnecessary government agency and a waste of money. End the requirement for registration with the SSS and eliminate the SSS.</p>
4/19/18	<p>Santa Barbara Friends Meeting (Quakers) Peace, Earthcare, and Social Concerns committee considered the questions on the website of the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service, including Selective Service System (SSS) registration and the rights of Conscientious Objectors (COs). Here are thoughts for your consideration: 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. If the SSS is to be continued, the SS should contain an option to register as 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 drivers license, qualify for financial aid in advanced education, governmental employment, etc. Removal of such penalties should be retroactive. In regard to Question 4. What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? - The barriers to military service may include serving in undeclared, unconstitutional military actions, loss of freedom, loss of educational opportunities, health, family, personal necessities, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Moral Injury, Military Sexual Assault and violation of personal life philosophies. The question if barriers to non-military service also include the loss of timely incremental personal development; for some people service is more appropriate later in life. All of the barriers to service can be mitigated by transferring large parts of the military budget to good public education, health care, infra-structure needs, etc. fulfilling the needs of a modern society.</p>

4/19/18	<p>Who is Christopher Daniel? I am a political scientist who retired from Kentucky State University after teaching about American government, politics, and public administration in collegiate settings for thirty-seven years. Most of my scholarly publications have concerned two fields: (1) public personnel management/human resource management issues; and (2) integrating contemporary immigrants into American society. Why do I care about public service? By chance I grew up in a family that has had an extensive and varied service tradition. During the early 1900s two of my great-grandparents, operated a settlement house that served impoverished immigrants in Philadelphia. In 1942 my father, tried to enlist in the U.S. Navy but was rejected because a medical test revealed the presence of albumin in his urine. Dad then succeeded in enlisting in the Army using subterfuge. Like the Navy, the Army conducted urine analyses but Dad covertly removed that damning piece of paper from his file and destroyed it. He served in an infantry combat company in North Africa and Italy. During 1943-1944 my father was wounded three times and also was awarded a Silver Star. Later, after my father had left the Army and completed college on the G.I. Bill, he and my mother, spent four years in Liberia. Their living expenses were paid for by the U.S. Episcopal Church while they taught science there in West Africa at Cuttington College for four years. Subsequently my father's sister, spent most of her adult life engaged full-time in social service and Christian education activity in Brazil. My own service activities have been more limited. While growing up I had opportunities to participate in service activities that were organized by the both Boy Scouts and the public schools that I attended. Later while attending college I participated in several volunteer activities, tutoring a child at an inner city community center and engaging developmentally challenged residents of state institutions in recreational activities. Also, during those years I spent a summer living in a temporary community that was devoted to bridging racial divides and performing public service full-time in inner city Philadelphia. More recently I have done volunteer work with the Boy Scouts and utilized my bilingual skills (English and Spanish) to provide interpreting assistance to help working class Mexican and Central American immigrants navigate health care settings here in Kentucky.</p> <p>Specific Topics to Address 1. Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. National Security? No, it is not necessary. The world is very different now from what it was in 1940 when the Selective Service System was created and it also differs now from the conditions that existed in 1974 when active conscription ended. Beginning during the late 1940s and early 1950s, much of the U.S. military was deployed in Germany, prepared to resist a potential Soviet invasion of Western Europe. That mission concluded in 1989-1991 when the cold war ended and both the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact disintegrated. Some contemporary Russian behavior creates problems for other nations, including the United States, but those challenges differ in character and magnitude from those that the Soviet Union posed during the Cold War. And even though it no longer faces Cold War challenges the United States currently maintains an extensive military budget, one that is much larger than those of China, Russia, or any other country on earth. In fact, the United States military budget is greater than the combined total military outlays of the next seven highest spending nations combined. In descending order those seven nations are China, Saudi Arabia, Russia, the United Kingdom, India, France, and Japan. See: https://www.nationalpriorities.org/campaigns/us-military-spending-vs-world/ < https://www.nationalpriorities.org/campaigns/us-military-spending-vs-world/ > . Conscription has sometimes been used to mobilize large armies to conventionally defend countries from foreign invaders. The United States does not currently face any threats of that nature and it is extremely unlikely that such circumstances will arise in future decades. It's no longer 1940. Since the end of World War II imperialism has become unfashionable and warfare between nations has occurred much less frequently than was the case during earlier more bellicose historical periods. The existence of weapons of mass destruction, international norms, and globalization (greatly increased flows of international trade, finance, and information) now make the prospect of fighting wars beyond their borders less attractive to nations. Unfortunately, during the past seventy years many civil wars have developed around the world. Those horrific conflicts have devastated societies but they have not posed existential threats to the United States of America. International terrorism has become a major concern but it is a problem that can only rarely, if ever, be</p>
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addressed efficaciously by military means. U.S. military activity within the Muslim world has sometimes increased American vulnerability to terrorism. Basing U.S. troops in Islam's holy land, Saudi Arabia, following the Gulf War motivated Al Qaeda to subsequently attack American targets including warships, the World Trade Towers, and the Pentagon. Later the imprudent 2003 American invasion of Iraq destabilized that country and generated Islamacist extremism many places around the world. Had the U.S. not invaded Iraq in 2003 neither Al Qaeda in Iraq nor ISIS would exist today. U.S. military deployments have now been sustained without respite for more than 16 years in Afghanistan and for more than 14 years in Iraq. Repeated deployments have placed great strain on National Guard units, soldiers, Marines, and their families. That problem needs to be addressed but there are only two potentially viable means of doing so. Alternative #1 would substantially increase the size of the full-time professional military. Doing so would be costly and perhaps politically problematical. Convincing Congress that the United States should maintain substantial forces in Afghanistan and Iraq indefinitely, for decades to come, might be difficult. And, to increase force levels military pay may need to be raised, especially during periods when the civilian unemployment rate is low. Alternative #2 would be for our national leaders to either reduce the scope of the Iraq and Afghanistan deployments or eliminate them entirely, simultaneously taking care not to unwisely insert American forces into conflicts elsewhere. I personally favor selecting Alternative #2 rather than #1. But, perhaps the underlying staffing dilemma is more important than are my personal views concerning Iraq and Afghanistan. There are no other viable options besides Alternatives #1 and #2. Service members need relief from excessively frequent international deployments but neither reviving conscription nor otherwise tinkering with the Selective Service System would be viable means of accomplishing that purpose. During the decades since active conscription ended in 1974 the U.S. military has not simply become an "all-volunteer" force but has also emerged as a highly professionalized entity. To perform effectively today's military service members need to possess considerably more education than many Vietnam-war era draftees had. And, military training costs are now higher than they were during the draft era, making the prospect of extensively training draftees financially impractical. It does not make sense to invest in training individuals who will leave the military in two years. It is also important to remember that ending conscription in 1974 enabled the military services to subsequently improve unit cohesion. During the draft's later years many soldiers were resentful that their lives had been disrupted by conscription and were angry at officers whom they perceived to be overzealous, individuals whom they believed put soldiers' lives at risk for no good purpose. So, extensive 'fragging' occurred in Vietnam as draftees surreptitiously murdered unpopular platoon commanders with fragmentation grenades. In addition to dividing rather than unifying the country, reactivating conscription could create fractures within the military. 2. Are modifications to the selective service System needed? The "modification" needed is prompt elimination of the Selective Service System. Twenty-five million federal dollars are wasted every year maintaining a bureaucracy that has not been used for forty-four years and will not be needed in the future. Multiplying twenty-five million dollars times 44 produces a total of \$1.1 billion dollars. Actual expenditures were lower at times during past decades but the \$1.1 billion nonetheless makes sense, assuming the analysis conducted entirely using constant 2018 dollars. In retrospect, America would have been better off if those 1.1 billion dollars had instead been either put to a productive public use, applied to the national debt, or returned to taxpayers. 3. How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? Seeking multiple means of chipping away at this issue is likely to be more useful than it would be to try to develop a single magical remedy. There has reportedly been discussion of the possibility of reinstating conscription but applying it extremely selectively, drafting only individuals who possess the aforementioned 'critical skills'. Doing so could be counterproductive, overtime harming both military staffing and the civilian economy. Developing critical skills related to health care, information systems, and use of foreign languages takes considerable effort. That's why labor shortages sometimes occur in those fields. In response employers sometimes either develop their own training programs or alter their compensation practices. Over time free

	<p>market forces of supply and demand produce beneficial results as individuals make unconstrained choices. But, if conscription is reinstated and then applied disproportionately to people who possess 'critical skills', individuals' incentives will change. In order to avoid being drafted some young people who would otherwise have enrolled in educational programs developing critical skills will instead refrain from doing so. That would intensify, not lessen, labor shortages. 4. What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? Congress needs to pass a Dream Act/DACA reform bill. I've been told by bright, well-educated youth in their twenties that as children they aspired to serve in the military but later abandoned those dreams when they realized that even though they had grown up in the United States they were undocumented. Also, funding for the Peace Corps should be substantially increased. Between 2013 and 2015 the number of Americans who volunteered to serve in the Peace Corps more than doubled, increasing from 10,000 to 24,000 annually. But the number of volunteers that the Peace Corps could afford to accept annually remained constant during that period, just 6,000. When increasingly numbers of Americans seek to serve government should respond positively. Caution- https://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/cpages/more-funding < Caution-https://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/cpages/more-funding > 5. Does service have inherent value, and if so what is it? Service has inherent value when it brings people together and enables individuals to transcend their personal concerns. However, to truly be service activity needs to be voluntary. Reinstating conscription would not unify our nation but instead incite division. 6. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? No it is not necessary, would not be valuable, and would be very difficult and costly to implement.</p>
4/19/18	<p>Please do consider public service and even conscientious objection as possible responses to your work. Military draft is one possibility, but the other national and public service should be possible in its place. It would strengthen the military to have those who truly wish to serve military, not just for the salary and experience which they may be able to get through other avenues. Serving in public service shares patriotism as well as experience and needs in America.</p>

4/19/18	<p>I am completely done with war as a solution to any of our problems on this planet! I think all of the military conflicts since 9/11 have been scams - they have been waged to increase the profits of the military contractors, to secure oil, NG, pipelines or ports for the fossil fuel corporations, for land acquisition for states such as Israel, and geo-positioning for further conflict! I want the draft back - its the only way to get the average American involved with ending the wars! If they have to serve or their kids have to serve, then they will get involved! As long as the economy pushes poor white, black and brown kids to join the military, it will represent a poverty draft! We need a fair draft so that all Americans will have some skin in the game! Americans are tired of war - and we do NOT believe it is making us safer - it is time to end the wars, shut the majority of bases around the world and bring our troops and money home! A Nov, 2017 Poll: Americans Skeptical of U.S. Military Interventions Caution- https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2017/11/11/poll_americans_skeptical_of_us_military_interventions_135506.html < Caution- https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2017/11/11/poll_americans_skeptical_of_us_military_interventions_135506.html > "Americans are uncertain that recent U.S. military interventions and overseas commitments have achieved positive results for the country, one of a range of findings in a new survey sponsored by the Charles Koch Institute and RealClearPolitics. The poll, conducted late last month, sampled two groups: the general population and current and former military service members. While 71 percent of all those polled agree that the threat of terrorism has increased over the last two decades, pluralities of both groups -- 41 percent of military/veterans and 43 percent of the general population -- believe that U.S. intervention has rendered the country less secure. Forty percent of each group also say that it has had the same negative effect on the international community. A greater share of military/veterans (61 percent) are weary of American intervention abroad than the general population (50 percent). However, respondents are more evenly split when prompted with the possibility of further intervention in the future, with civilians and service members differing slightly in their responses. Forty percent of the latter group think that further intervention would make America more safe, while 34 percent say less safe (and 18 percent report neither). Only 27 percent of the general population surveyed think interventions make us more safe, while a larger proportion, 41 percent, say less (with 18 percent again saying neither). Whatever the specific intervention, the two sampled groups strongly agree that the president must acquire congressional authorization for preemptive military action abroad." Bring back the draft so we can end these wars once and for all!</p>
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4/19/18	<p>I have separated my comments into numbered parts; the numbering corresponds, with one exception, to the numbering given in section III of the request for comments. The exception is for item 4 of section I, as it does not appear to be otherwise represented in section III. As a brief introduction to "where I am coming from", I am currently a "middle-aged" software developer in a relatively senior non-management position. However, my past career includes extensive work in systems administration, systems architecture, network operation, and network architecture. I also have a wide range of hobbies and interests, from technical topics such as security and cryptography to less common ones such as working on a railroad. > (1) Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary > component of U.S. national security? I believe that a draft contingency is still an appropriate and necessary component of an overall national security strategy. However, that being said, there are several important caveats. The first is that while a draft contingency is appropriate, I believe that the only appropriate way to view it is as a "measure of last resort," to be activated only in times when a clear and immediate threat to not just the security of the nation, but its fundamental existence, arises. To phrase it another way: I believe that an active military draft is appropriate only in a conflict where the nation has been attacked on its "home soil". I specifically do <u>not</u> consider it appropriate to invoke it for considerations such as "economic security" — there are more appropriate responses to such concerns. The reason for this is very simple: I would not willingly participate for reasons such as that, and I am therefore unwilling as a citizen to expect that anyone else should be compelled to do so on my behalf. The fact that we have had a strictly voluntary military for several decades now is one of the moral strengths of the nation, and should only be sacrificed in the face of the most dire of needs. However, I also believe that there may be a "middle ground" between our current state and a "full" draft; please see topic 2 for a further discussion of this. Additionally, I do not consider a "public service" requirement to be the same as a draft, with military service being only one among many options. More on this under topic 6, below.> (2) Are modifications to the selective service system needed? I do not know that I can say that they are "needed", but I think that some potential modifications would certainly be advisable. I admit to being somewhat conflicted on the question of whether females should be subject to selective service. On one hand, it is the only obvious "fair" approach, but on the other hand we as a society are still a long way from true gender equality. I cannot in clear conscience say that the obligation should be applied fairly when the benefits of citizenship are not; I can only say that I wish we as a nation would reach the state where I could. I also believe that there might be a great deal of benefit gained by having multiple "stages" or "levels" of a draft, wherein those already registered would be contacted not with a requirement for service, but a request for it which could be refused (or potentially negotiated). The general notion here would be a way for the nation to say "we need more than we can get through normal voluntary service, but we are asking for volunteers to come forward first, so that we can minimize (or entirely avoid) the need for involuntary service." In particular, it would make a great deal of sense for this approach to be much more targeted than a general draft. By comparison, it seems likely that by the time the requirements have devolved to "any warm body we can get" a general draft is likely to be unavoidable anyway. > (3) How can the United States increase participation in military, > national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to > address the national security and other public service needs of the> nation? Unfortunately, I believe that the military is at a specific disadvantage in this regard; given that, I will address my comments primarily to the "national" and "public service" participation. In addition, I only feel qualified to address the question for the skills that fall into the "cyber" and "STEM" categories. Based on the other topics, it is clear that the generic answers of "make it more worthwhile", "reduce barriers", and "make it something to be proud of, for people that would not currently find it so" are already understood, and I will address the details of those under the relevant topics. Apart from that, I think that this question may perhaps miss one of the most critical aspects of the problem that Congress and the Commission are trying to address. As a software developer, there is a lesson that I have had to learn in order to produce results that meet the needs of a client: ask "what is the requirement?", not "how do you want us to do this?" After all, if the client knew how, they'd probably develop it themselves. But conflating these two questions remains one of the most common failings in any</p>
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software project, in any domain, of any size, for any client. The problem I see here is that the notion of a draft for technical skills, especially "cyber" skills, is that if you wait to bring people in until you know that you're under attack, you've already lost. And many of the technically inclined people I know — some of whom are former military or technical employees of agencies such as the FBI — are of the opinion that the current state of our "cyber" assets is somewhere between "laughable" and "might as well not exist". Not because we lack offensive capabilities (if any of them know details of those they aren't discussing them with me), but because security is something that, in the general case, cannot be "bolted on" to existing things very effectively. It has to be designed in, from the ground up, at least far enough that it is a "native" part of the system involved, whether or not it is active in any given circumstance. The nature of our national approach to security has a fundamental problem, one which has no easy solution: security is expensive, which means that it cuts into profits and will be avoided or ignored to whatever extent it can be without causing some more drastic *and visible* drop in profits due to the consequences of not having it. This is a very simple and straightforward equation, and it is largely unavoidable in any society that has both corporations and a meaningful level of market competition... sometimes even "corporations" is optional, there. But to put it exceedingly bluntly: many of the folks I can personally speak of, certainly including myself, are dubious of the value of any after-the-fact effort to address cyber-security due to the state of "how things are" today. It would be like trying to keep water in a sieve by holding a teaspoon under one part of it and dumping the water caught back into the top. This is a cultural and "mindset" problem, which means it does not have any nice, clean, technical solution. We can make and use tools that leverage and amplify a person's ability and willingness to make something secure, but both the ability and the willingness have to be there in the first place — as does the perception by those who control priorities and policies ("management") that it is worth doing at all. With regard to these skill sets, the people you need most are rather distinctly notable for their lack of patience with, or tolerance of, either "fools" or "busy work". To increase their willingness to participate you will have to convince them of one critical thing: that their efforts would not go to waste. Convince them of that and not only will you have "increased participation" in a direct sense, but also their participation in a much broader and less direct sense, even from those that don't choose to participate directly. While I am certain that this suffers from selection bias... every single individual I personally know who would qualify as highly experienced in these skill sets is someone who has a profound sense of pride and accomplishment in work well done. Many of them struggle regularly with frustrations over the exact problems that make the nation vulnerable on these fronts, of their own personal interest. The hard part isn't getting them to participate. They already do, in the background, and they have been doing so for years or decades. The hard part is figuring out how to address the things that prevent their success in the first place, because those won't go away just because the source of the rent money changes. > (4) What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or > public service? I mentioned under topic 3, above, that I believed that the military had a specific disadvantage. That disadvantage largely falls under this topic, and is simply that while there are certainly plenty of people who have the skill sets in question and who do not have any issues with military service, there are also a great many who have either issues of conscience or issues of practicality that present barriers. As to issues of conscience, all I can offer is that many people are willing to defend themselves, than are willing to take offensive action. Most of these people also do not subscribe to concepts such as "preemptive war", at least not as something they would consider participating in. Perhaps the single most intelligent person I have ever personally known worked for a military contractor a few years ago, one that provided equipment and software used in training helicopter crews for combat missions. She asked the liason officer, at one point, if he could give her anything to set her mind more at ease about what the company did. In her words, she "did not believe that it was always possible to avoid war", but saw a definite difference between fighting when it was the the best remaining option out of only bad options and fighting when there were still reasonable alternatives to be tried. What he offered her was simple, straightforward, and unflinchingly honest — both about what the training was for, and what the reality of what happened when that training was put to use. He told her that if the simulator

made the door gunner more accurate, it meant fewer bullets being fired to do what needed to be done. But the important part is what he continued with: fewer bullets fired meant fewer misses, which meant fewer chances for civilian casualties. Which was worth it in and of itself, but it also meant fewer reasons for someone to hate the United States for having killed someone they cared about. As to the issues of practicality, there are several, some more common than others. The skill sets that the nation is in need of are ones that generally cannot be attained in a short amount of time. After all, if they could be then we'd just train the people who are already volunteering for service (of any sort). While they may not take decades to acquire practical skill in, there is still enough "art" (as opposed to "science") involved that significant practical experience is very valuable, and _that_ cannot be obtained through shortcuts. As a consequence, many of the people with the skill sets involved have had enough time to make significant progress in a career (or in some cases more than one), have "settled down" enough to have families, or undergone other similar shifts in their life. There are cultural reasons for the current ages limits on selective service, beyond just the physical aspects, and they potentially apply to national or public service almost as much as to military service. To be honest, I cannot think of any way to reduce this barrier other than having a great deal more flexibility than is currently available to the federal government in most cases... sometimes for good reasons. Some time ago James Comey made comments about the difficulty in hiring for the FBI due to marijuana policies, then "walked back" the comments as "just kidding" after taking a great deal of criticism. Having read the direct quote, it certainly doesn't sound like he was joking... and I can personally attest to the fact that whether or not it was in jest, the broader concept of the problems he was facing is absolutely a factor. I'm not speaking simply of marijuana usage, or even things which are illegal at all. For example, were I to be drafted today, I would have serious concerns that my current lifestyle (which violates no civilian laws) would potentially lead to a court-martial because the UCMJ has different rules. Suffice it to say that drafting me into a situation where my options would come down to "give up my family" or "risk court-martial" would not exactly incline me to thinking terribly kindly of those responsible, or care much about defending a nation that would allow such a thing to happen.> (5) Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? I believe that it does, but I must admit to the very high likelihood that I am heavily biased on the subject by virtue of my upbringing. I believe that the Constitution establishes a social contract. Not one which should obligate someone to it simply because they were born within a particular set of imaginary lines drawn on a map, or even born to parents who subscribed to that contract, but because they individually wish to participate. In doing so, that contract grants them rights that are expected to be protected by all participants... and concurrent with those, it places on them the obligation of protecting those of others. I believe that the notion of "service" should be interpreted more broadly than it currently is, but also that it should be more broadly expected as an obligation of being a citizen. Service has inherent value by virtue of how it is defined: if an action does not provide value to the society as a whole, then it is not an act of service to society. But by the same token, any action which does promote the good of society, and most especially any such action that has a cost (even simply the cost of "not doing something else"), is an act of service. > (6) Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, > valuable, and feasible? Necessary? Probably not; we seem to have muddled through so far without one. Valuable, however... yes. Within reasonable limits, but I firmly believe that one of the most profound causes of the increasing lack of civic participation is the lack of any personal investment into the notion of society. A service requirement is not a magic bullet; there are several other issues that come into play as well, which I discuss under the next topic. But there are few if any things which give a more profound or concrete personal investment in something than actively participating in it. Today we view "public service" as a punishment, something inflicted on criminals as a substitution for ostracising and isolating them in ability prison... and in practice usually reserved for those with enough advantages that they can obtain it from the court. In short, rightly or wrongly, it is seen as a "rich man's punishment" that highlights the unfairness of the judicial system in many ways. This is the most profoundly broken view of it that I can think of, even though the situation that sets it up is well-reasoned and well-intentioned. Service to the public is a repayment of the social debt incurred by the simple fact of living

in our society. The intent of using it as a criminal punishment is for the convict to "repay" society for a harm done to it, but without a fundamental basis as "a thing that is expected of everyone, a criminal just owes *more*" then it carries a stigma that should never be attached to something so foundational to any society. As for feasibility... I am dubious of it being, unless the view of what constitutes service is broadened. This does not mean that "any old thing" should qualify, but to pick an obvious example, most teachers should be considered to be "serving the country" as much as any member of the military or the peace corp. All of them are paid, and all of them have chosen to invest their time and energy into a path which benefits all of society. I think that many things well under "a career" should qualify as well, these are simply examples of cases where it would be ludicrous to ask for *additional* service above and beyond what comes by the nature of the occupation. > (7) How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, > particularly young Americans, to serve? I'm afraid that you probably won't like the largest answer I'm about to give. And it isn't something that can be dealt with directly. But to not address it would be to ignore the elephant in the room. If you want to increase the willingness to serve, you have to convince people that there is something worthy of their service. I find our nation so, even now, but in many ways much less so than I once perceived it as being — and believe that it could be again. I'm absolutely certain that there is some amount of nostalgia in this, but I am equally certain that many people in our society have little or no reason to think that it is particularly worth serving. Because to be frank, I've got a lot of advantages that they don't. Not because I did anything special to earn them, but simply because I was lucky enough to be born in a time and place that the skills I was adept at learning were highly valued *and* to a family that was sufficiently well off that I had the opportunity to learn them at all. What makes this nation worth serving, to me? It isn't because it is "the land of the free" (while it is by no means horrible, it certainly isn't the paragon some people believe it to be) or "the home of the brave" (at least not any more or less than pretty much anywhere else). It isn't because we have tremendous natural resources and enough guile to parley those into becoming the dominant trade center of much of the world. I certainly benefit from that fact, but it isn't worth serving. What makes it worth serving is the notion that it is founded on a set of laws and principles that, at least in intention, are meant to give the most freedom to the most people as they can, without reducing that below a certain minimum that everyone is entitled to. They are far from perfect, but those who wrote them understood that fact. They are, by design, intended to be flexible and even changeable, as we learn through experience which parts of them work toward those ends and which hinder them. They aren't perfect, but they offer the hope that they can always be improved. The things that destroy people's willingness to serve are, at least in my personal experience, most often exactly the things that destroy faith in that hope. Abuses of the law. Disenfranchisement, whether intentional or otherwise. Blatant dishonesty and self-interest from those selected to represent the citizens in the process of evaluating, enforcing, and amending those laws. Laws which in practice, if not in letter, make the playing field of life anything but level. Given how profound many of those problems are, I find it remarkable how many people _are_ willing to serve. I can only attribute it to how profoundly we as a society, and as a species, value the hope that we can improve things. We refuse to give up on it in the face of all rational argument that things are too broken, too far gone, for it to be possible to recover at this point. I understand that the Commission is not in a position to change this directly. I understand that Congress, while somewhat closer to being so, cannot do it alone. I understand that what I describe is a multi-faceted and pervasive problem that all societies face in one form or another. But I also understand that unless it can be addressed, it will not matter how many parades are thrown, how much propaganda is spread, or how much is spent on public relations. In his discussion of the root causes of the Challenger accident, Dr. Feynman closed by saying "For a successful technology, reality must take precedence over public relations, for nature cannot be fooled." But this is as true of societies as it is of technologies. They are made of humans, and they can certainly be fooled for a while... but not forever. In closing, I thank you for your time and attention.

4/19/18	<p>The comments below are submitted in response to the notice and request for comments, “Request for Information on Improving the Military Selective Service Process and Increasing Participation in Military, National, and Public Service”, NCMNPS Docket No. 05–2018–01, FR Doc. 2018–0326, published at 83 Federal Register 7080-7081, 16 February 2018. This Commission has been directed by Congress to “conduct a review of the military selective service process (commonly referred to as ‘the draft’)”, including, “A detailed analysis of the current benefits derived... from the Military Selective Service System”. The Commission has also asked, “Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans... feasible?” I welcome this inquiry and thank this Commission for the opportunity to submit these comments. In the 30 years since the failure of draft registration and the abandonment of any attempt to enforce the requirement for young men to register with the Selective Service System, there has been far too little attention paid to the (un)feasibility of a draft based on the current registration database, or to the implications for military policy of the failure of draft registration and the unavailability of a draft as a realistic policy option, even as a last resort. I urge this Commission to report to Congress and the President that no public benefit is being derived from the operations of the Selective Service System, because: (1) most people subject to the registration requirement do not comply, (2) the registration requirement is unenforceable and has proven to be so for decades, (3) the current Selective Service registration database could not be used as the basis for a workable draft, and (4) compliance with orders to report for induction would be even lower than compliance with registration, and even harder to enforce. I urge this Commission to recommend repeal of the Military Selective Service Act, abolition of the Selective Service System, expungement of the Selective Service registration database, and restoration of eligibility for Federal jobs, student aid, and all other Federal programs for individuals who have not registered with the Selective Service System. These recommendations are based on practicalities, not political opinions, informed by intimate personal experience in, and intimate familiarity with the documentary record of, the history of compliance with and enforcement of draft registration since 1980. Beginning with the resumption of draft registration in 1980, and continuing through the U.S. proxy war in Afghanistan in the 1980s and the U.S. invasions of Kuwait and Iraq in 1991, I served as an (unpaid) organizer with the National Resistance Committee and as an (unpaid) co-editor of Resistance News, the national journal of resistance to draft registration. In 1983-1984, I served 4 1/2 months in the custody of the U.S. Attorney General, most of that time in a Federal Prison Camp, for my willful refusal to submit to registration with the Selective Service System, and for organizing and encouraging resistance to draft registration. Today, I serve as (unpaid) editor and maintainer of Resisters.info, a Web site about the draft, draft registration, draft resistance, and health care workers and women and the draft. There is no other service I have done in my life of which I am more proud. When President Carter proposed to reinstate draft registration in 1980, he described it as a response to Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. But if the U.S. had sent draftees my age to Afghanistan in the 1980s, which side would we have been fighting on? It should not be forgotten that when draft registration was reinstated, the U.S. was arming and funding the warlords and “mujahideen” who were then fighting against the USSR, and would later turn against the U.S. The U.S. government put me in prison for refusing to agree to fight on the side of the people who would later become the Taliban and Al Qaeda! It's no wonder that people of my generation and after have no faith in the ability of the U.S. government to decide for us in which wars, or on which (if any) side, we should fight. But it's not necessary for this Commission, the Congress, or the President to agree with or even to understand the reasons why some people resist the draft and draft registration to assess whether a draft would be feasible – and to conclude, on the evidence, that it would not. Before Congress reinstated Presidential authority to order draft registration in 1980, Congress received clear and explicit warning, from the most knowledgeable of experts, as to exactly what would happen, and in the event did, if and when it tried to resume registration. On 14 April 1980, while legislation to reinstate presidential authority for draft registration and to bring the Selective Service System back from “deep standby” was pending in Congress, the Subcommittee on Courts, Civil Liberties, and the Administration of Justice of the House Committee on the Judiciary held the first of a series of hearings on, “The Civil Liberties and Administration of Justice Implications of Draft Registration”. The hearing</p>
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opened with a prescient statement by Curtis W. Tarr, who had been the Director of the Selective Service System from 1970-1972: "My judgment is that in this national climate, offenders would constitute a significant portion of the total pool. "If a person were apprehended for failure to obey the law, the next problem would be prosecution.... I doubt whether U.S. Attorneys or Federal Judges would attempt to convict young people in numbers that would ensure reasonable compliance with the law. Reacting to that laxity, counselors would soon advise young people not to register since the penalty would be inconsequential in the unlikely event that the offender were caught. "Once registration has taken place, then records must be maintained. Enforcing a requirement to notify selective service of a changed address would be even more difficult than enforcing the duty to register. Again, courts would not wish to treat this failure as a serious transgression, a further encouragement to noncompliance. "Thus I foresee the possibility of evasion by large numbers that would overwhelm the agencies for law enforcement and the judiciary." At the same series of hearings, the Subcommittee heard testimony from opponents of draft registration who described plans and preparations for organized resistance to draft registration. They introduced into the hearing record the founding "Call for Resistance" to draft registration which had been issued earlier that year by the National Resistance Committee, the organization with which I was then working, and which had been distributed at the national "Mobilization Against the Draft" marches against draft registration by tens of thousands of people in Washington, DC, and San Francisco, CA, on 22 March 1980. Congress and the President ignored Dr. Tarr's warning, but noncompliance with the registration and change of address notification requirements, and the eventual unwillingness of the Department of Justice to continue prosecutions that were failing to deter widespread noncompliance, unfolded exactly as Dr. Tarr had predicted. This Commission, and the Congress and President who will consider its recommendations, should not make the same mistake that Congress and the President made in 1980 of failing to look backward at history and forward to the foreseeable future to assess, realistically, the feasibility of enforcing draft registration and a draft based on it. When men born in 1960, 1961, and 1962 were ordered to register at Post Offices during mass registration weeks in 1980 and 1981, far more of us stayed home than even the most optimistic supporters of draft resistance had hoped for. Over the next year, widespread publicity about the extent of noncompliance created an increasing crisis of public legitimacy for draft registration and the Selective Service System. In July 1982, less than a month after the first indictment for violating the new draft registration requirement, Justice Department officials were called before the same Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee to answer questions about whether or how they planned to enforce draft registration in the face of the widespread noncompliance. David J. Kline, Senior Attorney with the General Litigation and Legal Advice Section of the Criminal Division, and Lawrence Lippe, Chief of the General Litigation and Legal Advice Section, appeared before the House Subcommittee on behalf of the Department of Justice. Even when specifically asked, they declined to tell Congress what prosecution policy had been decided on by the Department of Justice or what instructions had been given to U.S. Attorneys. But internal Department of Justice documents describing and discussing those policies were disclosed to indicted nonregistrants a few months later during pretrial discovery. The enforcement strategy adopted by the Department of Justice was explained in a memo drafted by Kline and sent over Lippe's signature to D. Lowell Jensen, Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division: "The total number of nonregistrants will doubtless remain very high when measured against the Department's prosecutive resources. "However, an initial round of well-publicized, successful prosecutions should have a dramatic effect in further reducing the number of non-registrants.... We first would have to accept the simple fact that, although some persons will be prosecuted, there will be others who are neither registered nor prosecuted. Nevertheless, such a policy, geared to present funding levels, might well yield sufficient general deterrence so that the Selective Service system receives sufficient registrations to maintain the credibility of the system." Kline's plan was approved, and he instructed all U.S.

Attorneys accordingly: "We request that United States Attorneys assign any non-registration matters in their districts to experienced Assistant United States Attorneys and ensure that such matters are handled on a priority basis. If the non-registration matters pending within your district can be sufficiently investigated within a short period of time, indictments should be sought before the end of June [1982]." But prosecutions of selected nonregistrants failed to "yield sufficient general deterrence so that the Selective Service system receives sufficient registrations to maintain the credibility of the system." Compliance declined following the prosecutions, for at least three reasons: First, the overwhelming majority of U.S. Attorneys to whom nonregistration cases were referred ignored their instructions from Washington and chose not to seek indictments — exactly as former Selective Service Director Tarr had predicted to Congress in 1980. Hundreds of cases of nonregistrants, possibly as many as 2,000, were referred to U.S. Attorneys between 1980 and 1988, when prosecutions were suspended. Only 20 of these cases — perhaps as little as 1% of the total — led to indictments. These were easy cases. Almost all of the nonregistration cases referred to U.S. Attorneys were of people who had informed the government of our refusal to register, usually by writing to the Selective Service or other officials, and/or who had publicized our refusal. Some young men undoubtedly took the opportunity to register without penalty once they were visited by the FBI and told that if they didn't register, they might be indicted. But many, probably at least several hundred, still refused to register. In the overwhelming majority of these cases, U.S. Attorneys exercised their discretion not to prosecute. Second, the prosecutions of self-identified nonregistrants did nothing to intimidate the much larger numbers who had quietly ignored registration. The Supreme Court upheld the legality of selecting nonregistrants for prosecution on the basis of whether we had spoken out about our resistance, on the theory that locking up the "most vocal" nonregistrants would have the greatest deterrent effect on others. But that theory was proven wrong. Nonregistrants weren't fools. They got the message, loud and clear, that there was safety in silence as well as safety in numbers, and little or no risk of prosecution unless they chose to single themselves out in the most flagrant possible ways. The selective prosecutions, and the publicity about selective prosecution, reassured and encouraged quiet nonregistrants. Third, the government had to prove actual knowledge of the requirement to register. That ensured that nonregistrants would get a "last chance" to register after being given personal notice of their duty to register, and could wait to register until then with impunity. In the one case in which the government picked out and indicted a nonregistrant who hadn't publicized or informed the government about his knowledge of the registration requirement, the prosecutor had to drop the charges in embarrassment when it became clear that the man indicted hadn't known that he was required to register. In the one case of a vocal nonregistrant who chose not to concede the element of knowledge and willfulness at trial, the conviction was eventually overturned because the trial judge had failed to instruct the jury adequately about the government's burden of proving actual knowledge of the registration requirement. To the extent that they heard about these cases, men subject to draft registration learned that if they were singled out for possible prosecution, they would have to be offered a "last chance" to register without penalty after they were personally advised of their legal obligation to register. Unless and until they were given such a "final warning" in person by the FBI, they could quietly ignore registration without incurring any real risk of prosecution. It became clear that for someone who wanted neither to be drafted nor to be jailed, the safest course of action was, as it still is today, to quietly ignore registration. In 1988, the Department of Justice threw in the towel and suspended prosecutions of nonregistrants — a suspension that has continued to this day, 30 years later. The 1988 decision to suspend prosecutions was publicly disclosed by a Selective Service System spokesperson in a 2016 interview with U.S. News & World Report: "In the late '80s the Justice Department discontinued prosecutions. Dick Flahavan, a spokesman for the Selective Service who was with the agency at the time, recalls the Justice Department 'decided that since there was no draft and there was high compliance, there are limited resources and the FBI's time would be better spent chasing white collar crime than some Mennonite kid through Pennsylvania.' "We said, "Fine, we understand," and that's why it ended in '88,' he says. 'The agency [Selective Service System] did agree to what the Justice Department proposed, a suspension of

prosecutions [during peace time]. Since they did the prosecutions we didn't have much leverage anyways....' "Flahavan says the Selective Service had hoped for a much stronger approach from federal prosecutors, but was rebuffed.... "If someone registered just before trial, the prosecution would be dropped, Flahavan notes, making the pursuit of resisters 'really a losing proposition for the feds" and often "a big waste of time.' "In 1987 a Justice Department spokesman told The New York Times it was preparing a policy through which the Selective Service System would periodically refer 200 names for prosecution. But that never happened. "'I think they were happy to walk away from it and we understand why,' Flahavan says. 'It was very labor intensive and very little came of it, although the government won [in the sense that most of the 20 men indicted were convicted].'" Any plan to continue draft registration, expand it to women and/or to individuals with specified skills, and/or use it as the basis for a draft or compulsory "service" would either have to include a plausible plan for enforcement of registration or acknowledge that individuals can opt out of registration without risk of prosecution, as long as they do so quietly. But nonregistration is only the tip of the iceberg of noncompliance with draft registration. Nonregistration is neither the most common form of noncompliance with draft registration, the most difficult to enforce, nor the most significant in the effect it would have on any attempt to use the current registration database as the basis for a draft. Most young men, although far from all (and far fewer than is generally assumed), register with the Selective Service System at some time, at some address. Most often this is either because they live in a state that links draft registration to obtaining a drivers license or to other state programs, because they are seeking Federal financial aid or loan guarantee for education or job training, or because draft registration is a condition of U.S. residency or naturalization as a U.S. citizen. It's important to note, however, that a substantial portion of the U.S. population lives in states including California where there is no linkage of draft registration to any state program. Use of drivers' license funds for draft registration or other purposes unrelated to motor vehicle operations woviolate California's state Constitution, and the California legislature has voted repeatedly against bills to link drivers' licenses to draft registration. It's also important to recognize that if the only reason people have registered with the Selective Service System is in order to obtain a drivers' license or a student loan, the fact that they are registered says nothing about whether they would be willing to be drafted. But draft registration is a continuing obligation, not a once-in-a-lifetime act. All male U.S. citizens or residents are required to notify the Selective Service System each time they change their residence until they reach their 26th birthday. Compliance with this requirement to notify the Selective Service System of changes of address is extremely low. Most men subject to draft registration have moved without notifying the Selective Service System. Most addresses on file with the Selective Service System are obsolete. If a draft were to be conducted based on the current registration database, most induction notices would either wind up in the dead letter office, or would be delivered to former addresses, most likely parents' addresses at which registrants lived when they were 18. There has been no independent audit of the accuracy of the Selective Service registration database, including the accuracy of registrants' addresses, since 1982. But already by 1982, only two years after the first registrations were submitted, the GAO found that 20% to 40% of the registrations on file with the Selective Service System contained obsolete addresses. "Also, we estimate that the percentage of outdated addresses at the end of the second through the fifth years following registration would be 32.5, 41.1, 52.8, and 61.6 percent respectively. Furthermore on the basis of Census data for older persons within the draft-eligible ages we estimate that about 75 percent of the addresses provided to the Selective Service at the time of registration would be outdated by the end of draft eligibility." Bernard Rostker, Director of the Selective Service System from 1979-1981 during the attempt to resume draft registration, discussed some of the legal problems that this would cause in the event of a draft an interview with the Washington Post in December 2017: ROSTKER: The list that they have I doubt could pass the legal definition of a complete and objective list, because it is structurally flawed and Selective Service knows it. CUNNINGHAM: Many young men don't ever actively register for the draft themselves. Their states

automatically send their information to the Selective Service when they get a driver's license. But if they move apartments -- or across the country -- the information doesn't necessarily get updated. And what about the men without driver's licenses? Or the ones who live in states that don't automatically register them? ROSTKER: It's a list that I'm sure the courts would throw out immediately because it's not accurate. Obsolete addresses would make it difficult to enforce induction orders, even if the courts didn't find that the registration list was too inaccurate to provide for due process. Because it would be impossible to prove that registrants knew they were supposed to notify the Selective Service System of changes of address, or to prove that they had received induction notices unless they signed for them, registrants could and would safely avoid induction simply by not signing for any certified letters from the Selective Service System. They could neither be inducted nor prosecuted unless and until they had been tracked down and notified in person by FBI agents that they would be prosecuted if they did not report for induction. As with registration itself, they could ignore the draft with impunity until then. As for induction notices delivered to registrants' parents, many parents would choose to destroy them rather than forwarding them to their children. Yes, destroying an induction notice, if provable, could itself be a crime. But many parents would, in such a situation, choose to shift the risk of prosecution for violating the draft law from their children to themselves. Whether or not they have registered, the feasibility of any draft or any system of compulsory service depends critically on whether draftees will submit to induction. It is clear from the history of draft registration since 1980 that young men will not comply voluntarily. Is it realistic to assume that women would be more willing to submit to draft registration and/or an actual draft than men have been? Or that health care workers or other older women and men with specialized skills would be more willing to submit? Draft resisters are often accused of being naïve and unrealistic. But the naïveté is on the part of those who assume that people who have registered with the Selective Service System only as an automatic corollary of obtaining a driver's license, in order to obtain student loans or job training, or to avoid prosecution, would necessarily submit to induction if ordered. Having told young men for decades that, "It's just registration, not a draft," it would be the height of self-delusion to interpret registration as an indication of willingness to be drafted. Having adopted an explicit policy and practice of prosecuting only those who spoke out about our refusal to register, it would be the height of self-delusion to interpret the resulting silence as an indication that there is no opposition to draft registration or the draft. There is currently no national organization the primary focus of which is opposition to the draft or draft registration. But that doesn't mean that there is no opposition, or that there would be no resistance to any effort to expand registration or to resume inductions. The tendency to ignore or minimize the significance of silent noncompliance has been criticized as follows by the political anthropologist and scholar of resistance James C. Scott: "Much of the active political life of subordinate groups has been ignored because it takes place at a level we rarely recognize as political. To emphasize the enormity of what has been, by and large, disregarded, I want to distinguish between the open, declared forms of resistance, which attract most attention, and the disguised, low-profile undeclared resistance.... For many of the least privileged minorities and marginalized poor, open political action will hardly capture the bulk of political action.... The luxury of relatively safe, open political opposition is rare... "So long as we confine our conception of the political to activity that is openly declared we are driven to conclude that subordinate groups essentially lack a political life.... To do so is to miss the immense terrain that lies between quiescence and [open] revolt and that, for better or worse, is the political environment of subject classes.... Each of the forms of disguised resistance... is the silent partner of a loud form of public resistance." "Desertion is quite different from an open mutiny that directly challenges military commanders. It makes no public claims, it issues no manifestos, it is exit rather than voice. And yet, once the extent of desertion becomes known, it constrains the ambitions of commanders, who know they may not be able to count on their conscripts.... Quiet, anonymous,... lawbreaking and disobedience may well be the historically preferred mode of political action for... subaltern classes, for whom open defiance is too dangerous." In addition to questions about the military draft and draft registration, this Commission asks, "Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans...

feasible?" Leaving aside for a moment the contradiction between "mandatory" and "service", I have to point out that a requirement applicable only to certain age cohorts would be neither "universal" nor applicable to "all Americans". That a program which would likely be agespecific (and, to be more precise, youth specific) can be described as applying to "all" is symptomatic of the profound depths of unconscious ageism in which conscription is rooted. But not all opposition to military conscription is focused solely on its military purposes. Most draft resistance is not pacifist, and much of it has been motivated by anti-imperialism rather than anti-militarism. There is also opposition to conscription in itself, independent of its use for military purposes, and to the unfairness in its application including its ageism. Regardless of the age or age range to which such a mandatory requirement might be applied, it would face such widespread resistance as to render it unenforceable and unfeasible. Practical issues of compliance, noncompliance, and enforcement are likely to be dispositive of whether any continuation, modification, or expansion of draft registration, or any conscription or compulsory "service" program, will be feasible. Accordingly, I urge this Commission to devote at least one of your current series of panel discussions, and one of your planned later formal hearings, solely to these essential practical issues, and to include panelists and witnesses from within the Resistance. Don't make the same mistake that Congress made when it ignored the evidence before it in 1980 that widespread noncompliance would make draft registration unenforceable, as in fact it did. I would welcome an opportunity to meet with members and/or staff of the The Commission also want to know what the government could do to encourage "service", particularly by young people. Here are some preliminary answers: 1. "Compulsory service" is, by definition, slavery. If you want to encourage any positive definition of service, it must be voluntary, and completely separate from any system of conscription. You cannot have a system that serves both conscription and positive "service". If you are doing something because of the carrot of financial rewards or the stick of threatened prosecution or other punishment, it's servitude, not service. After my conviction for refusal to register for the draft, I was initially sentenced to six months' incarceration, suspended on condition that I perform 2,000 hours of "service". Although my probation officer testified – quite courageously – that she believed that my antiwar and nuclear disarmament work satisfied the conditions of my sentence, the judge later revoked my probation and ordered me locked up because he disagreed with the political statement made by my work. It was a lesson in the relationship between conscription and compulsory "service", and of the politicization of the definition of acceptable "service". 2. "Military service" is, by definition, service to the cause of war. If you want to encourage any non-warlike notion of "service", you need to separate it completely from military recruiting, military training, or incentives for military enlistment. 3. People can best "serve" by making their own choices. "Service" should not be limited to options approved by the government for nonprofit status. We need youth leadership to save us from the threats of nuclear and climate-change calamities that we older people have created. We need to allow young people to lead, not force them to follow. Accepting youth leadership means allowing young people to make choices that older people would not have identified for them. 4. The greatest limitation on the ability to "serve", especially for young people, is student debt that forces people to seek higher-paying jobs. This is the new form of the "channeling" of young people's choices by the Selective Service System. The best way to enable more people to "serve" is to free them from student and vocational-training debt by recognizing education as a human right and shifting funding for education and job training from loans to grants. Peace, Edward Hasbrouck San Francisco, CA 19 April 2018

4/19/18	<p>To Whom It May Concern: Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments to the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service on how to improve and increase participation in military, national, and public service. The Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) was established in 1979 and is a US national not-for-profit Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) and one of the largest organizations supporting projects that revitalize communities and bring greater economic opportunity to residents. These include investments in businesses, affordable housing, better schools, safer streets, and programs that improve the financial outlook of families. LISC mobilizes corporate, government, and philanthropic support to provide local community development organizations with loans, grants, and equity investments; technical assistance; and policy support. Our work impacts the lives of millions of Americans in both rural areas and urban centers across the country. LISC operates in 31 cities through our local office network, and partners with 86 different organizations that service over 2,000 rural counties in 44 states throughout the country. LISC has operated an AmeriCorps program for 23 years to recruit passionate, dedicated people to serve with community development groups in neighborhoods where we work. Nearly 70% of our members live in the community that they serve as an AmeriCorps member. Our members serve a vital, three-fold purpose: 1) to serve the organizations where they are placed and spearhead valuable projects which otherwise would not be undertaken; 2) to engage local residents in the revitalization of their own neighborhoods; and 3) to develop and deepen their personal civic engagement values and gain skills necessary to secure employment post service. Over 3,000 members have served in more than 80 cities and rural areas. LISC AmeriCorps members perform critical services including but not limited to: financial counseling, job placement, housing development and foreclosure prevention. Through service, members engage and empower neighbors to improve the safety, health, and vitality of their communities. To date, members have been instrumental in: helping to develop over 10,000 affordable housing units; providing homeownership/foreclosure prevention counseling to over 51,000 people; helping 26,000 clients with services leading to 7,500 individuals securing employment; and recruiting and managing over 157,000 volunteers to serve nearly 730,000 hours of community service. Depending on the local needs of these communities, LISC and our strategic community development partners evaluate where AmeriCorps members can be valuable leaders. In turn, members serve with a sense of patriotism as one way of giving back to their community and country. Addressing Needs of the Nation The United States can increase participation in military, national, and public service by recruiting individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation. It can work especially if individuals are matched with meaningful service opportunities. For example, coupling national service with rebuilding neighborhood infrastructure post natural disasters during recovery efforts has demonstrated results. On a larger agency scale, the continued disaster relief work, such as the service of National Citizen Conservation Corps (NCCC) and FEMA Corps teams, is an important and much needed first response when communities are hit with a natural disaster and when continuous investment in these resources is necessary. However, at a local level – once the initial “muck and gut” work has been done – there is a next phase need for community resilience. In both spaces, AmeriCorps members can play a vital role. It has been reported that Hurricane Harvey rebuilding efforts were hampered by a lack of skilled construction labor and service providers. Coupled with the trauma of residents trying to rebuild and remain employed, it generates an environment where civic engagement and AmeriCorps can play a significant role through the expansion and replication of results driven programs. One such program is LISC’s extensive Financial Opportunity Centers (FOC) network. LISC’s FOCs clients receive bundled services such as financial counseling, employment services and low-cost financial products that help build credit, savings and assets. Centers seek to provide local residents with job training and employment career development – such as in the construction trades – as a means to build family self-sufficiency, lessen the dependence on government programs, and lower the unemployment rate. LISC’s AmeriCorps members have been critical in addressing issues of financial stability and job readiness training throughout this network already. Members have served clients, who are hard-to-employ, with job readiness workshops, career coaching, and job placement services. This approach, which addresses basic needs with a longer</p>
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term self-sufficiency strategy, can benefit the nation and see even greater results with an increased investment. Eliminating Barriers to Service In seeking to increase participation in military, national or public service, it will require a concerted effort to break down the barriers that exist that seek to limit participation. One barrier is the lack of AmeriCorps brand recognition and understanding that it is a national service program. Although Americans overwhelmingly support national service, as indicated by a recent TargetPoint poll, it is not as well known that national service also benefits the participants of the AmeriCorps program. For example, in programs such as LISC's, we provide a unique offering to 'returning citizens' as a pathway to avoid recidivism. An AmeriCorps member contributes meaningful benefits to their neighborhood while they receive the skills and opportunity to build their resume needed for future employment opportunities. Indeed, in the last full year of service operations (2015-2016), LISC AmeriCorps members who had a criminal record could be characterized by this statement: "The typical LISC AmeriCorps member who has a criminal record is a 36 year old African American male without a degree supporting a 3 person household on less than \$10K per year. He has lived in the community he is serving for 10+ years." At the end of the service term when polled for employability, of those who successfully completed service 63% of this cohort subset was able to secure employment in the not-for-profit/ government sector or returned for a second term of service.ⁱ A second barrier is the stipend payment to members. AmeriCorps programs have a financial matching requirement; at LISC, our program matches the Federal investment at a reported rate of \$1.60 for every dollar received. With rising costs for mandatory health care, grant oversight and management, etc., the living stipend needs to increase to an amount that affords individuals to be able to meet basic needs – rent, food, transportation. Being able to provide a reasonable living stipend would assist with increasing program participation, member retention and, by extension, community benefit outcomes. The Value of Service National service has an inherent value. Members serve for a variety of reasons and for many it is life-changing. More than that, service and hiring alums at US based small businesses and corporations lends a competitive edge. In a recent LISC article, we profiled three alums, including Amy Millington, eBay Foundation's president and 1994 LISC AmeriCorps member. She served with a Los Angeles affordable housing developer and then managed an AmeriCorps program. She noted, "It was a great launching pad." The article went on to say: "More than that, Millington's service left her convinced that working together—'proximity and experience,' as she calls it—can foster empathy among people, whatever their backgrounds. And it gave her a sense of possibility that helps guide her work at the eBay Foundation overseeing employee community engagement activities along with millions in grants and impact investments: 'I bring those early experiences, seeing how meaningful human potential is and the power of economic opportunity, into the work that we do.'" A study by AmeriCorps alums completed by Abt Associates and JBS International found that 79% of alumni are or plan to become actively involved in community post service, compared to 47% prior. In addition, eight out of ten alumni say AmeriCorps benefitted their career path. Further findings indicated "AmeriCorps service is found to have a significant positive effect on civic engagement; respondents were more likely to engage in all community service activities asked about in the survey post-AmeriCorps compared to pre-AmeriCorps. There was also a positive effect seen on sense of community, cultural competency and measures of self-efficacy. The study found that AmeriCorps service had significant effects on alumni's employment and career pathways. For example, AmeriCorps alumni are more likely to attain a bachelor's degree or higher than the average American adult." All of these findings are key components of what employers look for when hiring as they are indicators of employee engagement. Employee engagement is critical to businesses and it impacts corporate bottom lines every year. LISC trains and nurtures individuals to be mindful leaders in both public and private sectors because we understand the importance of meaningful employee engagement to our economy. In a 2012 Gallup poll, "Organizations that score in the top half of employee engagement have double the odds of success of those in the bottom half. Not only that, but those at the 99th percentile of engagement have four times the success rate."ⁱⁱ National service participants learn engagement and how jobs are not the 'standard nine-to-fiver' while at the same time finding ways to contribute to their local community – from volunteering at the local food bank to helping a neighbor

shovel a driveway out after a snowstorm. Employee engagement and training/hiring people for vacancies in our changing economy will be a strategic move to position the US in the international business community. In conclusion, national service is an investment in those who serve, the non-profits who benefit from additional capacity, and communities where they serve. Investments in the AmeriCorps program result in more engaged citizens, greater economic opportunity, less dependence of government, safer neighborhoods, stronger communities, workforce development, and a stronger nation. We thank the Commission for this opportunity to provide comments.

4/19/18	<p>5th email and I have sent 1 mailed box; 5 PDF files attached, brief details below. 4/19/2018 Peter Jesella [REDACTED] Windsor CA [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED], twitter @pjesella and @NCMNPS 3) How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? Chapter 5 'Where Order Meets Chaos' from Start-up Nation: The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle by Dan Senor and Saul Singer reviews the history of other nation's military draft, especially Israel's. The primary insight I learned about its history, educational perspective of youth from K-12, is their awareness of mandatory military service, the choices they will need to make towards what duties of participation they hope to be selected for. The U.S. example would be those early high school youths that focus on entering a U.S. military academy, or Ivy League higher education, and so are more focus on achieving educational skill sets, and the metrics to measure these attributes. This for me is a good example of parallel track of development for the Commission to strongly consider regarding its priority on "skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation". Peter Jesella's "Redundant reminder" is game changing method for the U.S. K-12 educational system in its goals towards better motivating youth to consider their future career goals and staying focused on each year's educational goals. This inexpensive Federal change to the registration requirements from 18th birthday to 17th birthday for a "Congressional defined" one year of civic educational learning process towards "increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals". Unlike Israel's national security challenges, much smaller population, the U.S. only needs "the draft" military service, or any form of "mandatory service = conscription" as a last order "National Security Human Resource Insurance Policy" Redundant reminder: In 1979 H.R. 2206 96th Congress, 1st session, next 4 years; was a bill proposed to expand the mission of the Selective Service System into a National Service System. I hope my simple primary message for the last 39 years is reflected in the NCMNPS top 3 recommendations. This bill proposed to move initial male registration at 18th birthday, to 17th birthday to encourage an off-and-on, 1-year thoughtful consideration/discussion of the values of civic service in its many forms, and activities. At 18th birthday basic feedback of yes, no or maybe was required towards more further consideration of contracted military or AmeriCorps like service, or unpaid traditional part-time community volunteerism. With this expanded mission this bill proposed to include women in this yearly #YouthWakeUpCallUSA towards civic service participation. The big data gathered by each years youthful feedback would help focus the nation on the tasks needed to be done, and how each generation was willing to make things happen. I have tried to encourage professional in various disciplines, leaders, and institutions to strongly consider the implications of highly cost-effective means of increasing participation in our civil societies goals of a better tomorrow but have some feedback on the general ideas of National Service Public Policy, but no examples of comments on this simple but deeply powerful challenge to each new generation of voting age citizens towards service. It bothers this Vietnam-era veteran deeply as to the human mystery of silence and indifference to this "national security human resource insurance policy". Below Text/Picture from 12/20/02 by Director of Peace Corps Gaddi H. Vasquez. PDF Files: 1) 1-page from 2005 4/11 and 8/26 cover letter to Brigadier General S. Taco Gilbert III, Deputy Director of Strategic Planning at the Pentagon on "The 2005 Quadrennial Defense review at World Affairs Council San Francisco. Copy to General Schoemaker, U.S. Army Chief of Staff, at Marine' Memorial Association. 2) 9-pages 01/27/11 letter to President Obama from "Voices For National Service: America Forward signed by many leaders and institutions on raising U.S. citizen awareness on how civic service in their communities/nationwide can move the nation forward in identifying detailed solutions for "problems facing the country". 3) 15-pages 2011 Woodrow Wilson Center on the importance of "A National Strategic Narrative" by Mr. Y with preface by Anne-Marie Slaughter. 4) 18-pages 7/22/84 Ford Foundation Reprint; "National Service: An Aspect of Youth Development" by Franklin A. Thomas President of Ford Foundation. Document states it was speech given in Monte Rio, CA to "group of civic and business leaders". Monte Rio has a population of less than 1200 people but is very close to the Bohemian Grove were the Bohemian Club of</p>
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	San Francisco has it summer secret conferences. This speech was also given later at the Detroit Economic Club. 5) 58-page 2016 RAND Corporation report: "Recruiting Strategies to Support the Army's All-Volunteer Force"
4/19/18	Healthcare option (VISTA). Currently enrolled in Medicaid which is not enough nor sustainable considering the political climate. Eligibility issues for legal permanent residents. Also served with an injury requiring PT (very stressful). I'm also a returned Peace Corps volunteer which is a strong community! Was evacuated from my region but my Peace Corps office failed to communicate with my community.
4/19/18	One reputation the federal government has in regard to hiring/recruiting is the only way to get a job with the Federal government is if you're a veteran or recruited straight out of college. I know many people who would love to work for the Federal government and would be great assets to the government but are lost in the USA jobs application process. How can we make Federal jobs more accessible to competitive applicants?
4/19/18	Luis' story of passion - it's up to you to decide whether to engage or not. Pay attention to magical moments. Country has never blended military, alternative, and public service. 1.3 million active duty. ~ 9% of population has served. 325 million population of US, 1/4 are 19 or under. Focus on military - if Q and ethos of service.
4/19/18	There is a notable absence of folks of color on the Commission, at the panel, and in the audience. You can't have an authentic conversation on this important topic without working cogently to ensure representation of historically marginalized populations.

4/19/18	The Commission - and the audience - was for the most part - very white. If you want to increase public service participation, you need to develop relationships in diverse and lower economic communities, as well as increase stipends.
4/19/18	I serve with AmeriCorps through Notre Dame Mission Volunteers (NDMVA). We are in 23 cities and Boulder is the biggest site with 38 AmeriCorps members serving the under-resourced communities in Boulder County. A population of people that many doesn't even know exists. One of the biggest challenges we face is recruiting AmeriCorps members and outside volunteers from diverse populations. We need to make service more accessible to all! I know the passion is there, but it is not always possible unless you are a privileged person.
4/19/18	Student veteran access and success in higher ed
4/19/18	It's not just for the NSA anymore!
4/19/18	Are you planning to preserve the option of conscientious objector status for parties who are currently qualified? Can you ensure there will be no devious penalties for those who refuse to kill others?
4/19/18	Emphasize skill building/career bridges. Increase volunteer stipends to decrease financial barriers to service or increase Ed Award. Gather feedback from VISTAs on their experiences with specific organizations and use it to vet organizations. Provide funds for paid opportunities chosen by VISTA.
4/19/18	Barriers to serve - green card holders want to serve - slow background checks. High school and junior high - 2 years of community service. Elementary school - 1 year of community service. Draft contingency still necessary with only 1% of population serving you need to have a source for military strength.
4/19/18	Don't allow the administration to take away the public service loan forgiveness program EVER! It's the best incentive that currently exists to get young people into the sector and I will forever be in debt if it's taken away! Once permanently in place, this program should be marketed more to ensure a pathway.
4/19/18	George Sparks: the US is not now "doing well militarily." Fighting and funding wars all over the world and draining precious resources needed here at home. We are doing terribly militarily. Joseph Heck: "Service means many things," but this Commission clearly places military service at the highest place of importance. "Our nation is at a crossroads" - Democracy will not be enhanced by keeping military service as the most honored service or by continuing the slavery of our draft-ready Selective Service System. End the draft, which does include draft registration. There are already many "movements of service" in the US. The government has to realize that and maximally support those movements, which it can't do when spending nearly 50% of the federal budget on the cost of past, present, and future wars. Commission, WHY make today the deadline for all written public comments to be submitted when you still have seven more public hearings??? It makes us question how much you really want to hear from the public and be truly democratic in your process. Please extend the public comment period and announce it widely and loudly. P.S.: Thank you very much for extending the written comment period.

4/19/18	<p>Thank you, ladies and gentleman, for coming to Denver today to hear citizens' input. My name is Mathew Nicodemus, and I live in Boulder, Colorado. I have been a draft resister since 1978, which was three years after the end of the Vietnam-era draft registration requirement and two years before President Jimmy Carter reinstated compulsory registration. During my freshman year at Stanford University, I learned about the military draft, and out of a deep instinct and a knowledge of war that had been growing ever since I was old enough to watch the U.S., South Vietnamese, Vietcong, and North Vietnamese body counts and anti-war protests on the evening news, I decided that I would never allow myself to be drafted. My choice was so rapid and complete that I immediately joined over one hundred other students in signing a letter to then-U.S. Attorney General Griffin Bell declaring that, fully aware our actions could result in a prison term of up to five years and a \$10,000 fine, we pledged to refuse compliance with any future military conscription. I joined Stanford Against Conscription, and soon realized that I could never in good conscience avoid the draft by becoming a conscientious objector, knowing that others would be drafted to take my place in war. I understood that the only way to prevent or end military conscription and help end war would be to overwhelm the Selective Service System with draft resistance, and I understood that it was up to me personally to help build that resistance. I began working diligently to educate young people and the rest of American society about the draft and draft resistance, and to build a national resistance movement. Stanford Against Conscription compiled and distributed the first directory of college anti-draft groups, and we wrote an organizing guide for high school students and distributed it nationally. When I became eligible for the draft registration requirement which began in the summer of 1980, I joined two other resisters in Chicago and announced, at one of numerous simultaneous press conferences around the country, that we were proudly defying the Selective Service System. Our statements were broadcast throughout the country. Knowing that I could end up incarcerated, I visited a federal jail with resister friends to see what life was like inside, and I spoke with draft refusers of past eras to learn from their experiences. During the next six years, I alternated between being a student and war resistance activist and full-time organizer. I spoke to countless groups and individuals about the draft and resistance, publicly debated one Selective Service official and interviewed another in his Washington, D.C. office. I was co-editor of Resistance News, the national movement newspaper. I counseled many young men and their loved ones facing difficult decisions about military service. I communicated, collaborated, and cooperated with war resisters all over the U.S. and in other countries. I drove 7000 miles in two months on a nine-state, forty-four-city speaking tour. I had dozens and dozens of personal statements published or broadcast by news and other media, reaching millions of readers and viewers. I spoke at schools, churches, meeting halls, and conferences, and in numerous homes. I wrote and led crowds in war resistance songs and acted in numerous political theater pieces to convey the resistance message. And throughout it all, I met and was educated and inspired by the most amazing fellow travelers on the path to peace, people who were working just as hard and as long as I on all manners of different important social change projects, who were growing powerful movements for a better world. Why do I tell you all of these details? I tell you so that you can understand I and more individuals and organization than you can imagine form a vast web, and a strong wall, of resistance to war, and resistance to drafting people so that war can be prepared for, threatened, and prosecuted by governments. Should you move further toward conscription, there will be waves of new resisters, who will be just as dedicated to the cause as I am. Our force against the Selective Slavery System will be mobilized and maintained as long as it threatens the health and well-being of our society and world. We will reach out to those who you endanger, those you plan to feed to the war machine, and we will encourage and support their disobedience to your compulsions. We're very experienced, we're very effective, we're growing in numbers, and we don't give up. It will be best for everyone if you do the right thing and act now to abolish the draft, dismantle the Selective Service System, and focus your efforts on promoting nonviolent public service that will help reduce the likelihood of military conflict. The opening of all military assignments to women in December 2015 eliminated the basis in military policy for requiring men but not women to register with the Selective Service System for a possible draft. If Congress does nothing, pending court cases are likely to produce a ruling that male-only</p>
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draft registration is unconstitutional. Congress has thus been forced to consider whether to extend draft registration to women as well as men, or to end it for all. In 2016, Representatives Jared Polis (D-Boulder) and Mike Coffman (R-Aurora) introduced legislation to end draft registration, abolish the Selective Service System, and restore eligibility for Federal jobs, student aid, and other government programs to people who haven't registered for the draft. The Denver Post editorialized, "It's time to abolish the Selective Service and end the draft." Instead, Congress punted the question into the Trump Administration by creating a commission to study the issue and report back to Congress and the President by October 2020. That national commission will be in Denver April 19th for the second of its open-mic public hearings. We're here to point out that the Emperor has no clothes: Draft registration has failed. Widespread noncompliance has rendered it unenforceable. Any attempt at conscription would meet the same fate. In the years after draft registration was reinstated in 1980, we worked as organizers with the National Resistance Committee and as co-editors of Resistance News, the national journal of resistance to draft registration. We publicly refused to register and encouraged others to join us in resistance. Hundreds of thousands at first, and millions over the decades to follow, did so. Faced with far greater noncompliance than it had anticipated, the government tried to scare young men into registering by prosecuting a handful of vocal nonregistrants. One of us (Hasbrouck) was convicted of refusal to register and served 4 1/2 months in a Federal Prison Camp in 1983-1984. But show trials backfired. They made clear that there was safety in numbers and that only those who spoke up could be prosecuted. In 1988, after only 20 nonregistrants had been indicted, the Department of Justice gave up on trying to enforce the registration requirement. Young men today have to register in order to be eligible for student aid and some other government programs, including drivers' licenses in some states including Colorado (although not others, including California). But there's no attempt to verify addresses. Men are supposed to tell the Selective Service System every time they move until they are 26, but almost nobody does. The only audit of the database, in 1982, found that 20 to 40 percent of the addresses were already outdated. Most of the people subject to draft registration have violated the law, and most induction notices would end up in the dead letter office. Noncompliance has made the registration database useless as the basis for a draft. Bernard Rostker, Director of the Selective Service System from 1979-1981, told an interviewer in December 2017, "It's a list that I'm sure the courts would throw out immediately because it's not accurate." Draft registration has continued only because there's been no face-saving way for the government to admit that its power to conscript is constrained by the willingness of potential draftees to submit. The Commission is also supposed to report on, "the feasibility... of modifying the military selective service process in order to obtain... individuals with... medical, dental, and nursing skills, language skills, cyber skills, and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) skills) ... without regard to age or sex." But it's absurdly naive to think that women or older health and IT workers would be more willing to submit to conscription than young men have been. The commission should report to Congress and the President that, whether or not they agree with or understand the reasons for our resistance, a draft is not feasible and draft registration should be ended. Hell, No! We still won't go! War Resisters League Calls for Renewed Resistance to Conscription and Militarism. Even 45 years after its demise, the specter of the draft continues to haunt the United States. In much of the world, military conscription remains a cruel and heavy burden on the young. In the United States, conscription is a horror-movie corpse that won't stay dead. President Carter exhumed draft registration in 1980, and proposals for compulsory "national service" loom. The War Resisters League makes this statement to urge all of us not to praise the draft, but to bury it once and for all. Resisting Conscription for 95 Years (and Counting) WRL was born out of draft resistance. It was founded in 1923 out of support circles for World War I conscientious objectors, especially those whose objection to military service was based on secular, rather than religious, principle. Many were still suffering social and criminal sanctions for their refusal to serve in the war that was to end all war. Instead, the Great War set the stage for a greater war. Again, secular COs were jailed by the hundreds. This time, however, the most radical among

them—men like Dave Dellinger, Bill Sutherland, George Houser, Bayard Rustin, Lew Hill, Igal Roodenko, and Ralph DiGia—came, sooner or later, to WRL. Their commitment to confronting racism and belief in the importance of nonviolent resistance helped set the stage for the social movements of the next half century. Although more draft resisters were jailed during World War II (more than 5,000) than during the U.S. war against Vietnam (more than 3,000), WRL and anti-draft organization The Resistance helped build a mass movement against conscription and the Vietnam War that led to the abolition of the draft in 1973 and the eventual end of the war.

Because of our opposition to both militarism and injustice, even before the end of legal conscription, we became a prominent participant in the movement countering the “poverty draft”: the targeting by armed services recruiters of young people of color in the inner cities and lower-middle-income youth, especially in the South and rural areas. WRL has also resisted and continues to resist other expressions of militarism such as militarized toys and games, ROTC and JROTC, and the Trojan horse Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test, which masquerades as vocational guidance but has hidden inside it the Armed Forces Qualifying Test. When draft registration was revived in 1980, many organizations supported the rights of draft registration resisters. WRL went further, as one of the few major organizations actually advocating draft registration resistance. Coerced National Service: Thinly Camouflaged Militarism But ever since the first Gulf War, there have been periodic calls for a return to conscription. Some, including President Barack Obama, have advocated various "national service" schemes, some of them compulsory and therefore amounting to a draft. Others, prominent among them Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY), have argued that a draft would be more fair than the "poverty draft" relied on by recruiters for the present so-called all-volunteer military, or that more people would oppose war if they feared that they or their family members might be drafted. As to the national service proposals, compelled or coerced labor is conscription, not voluntary service, regardless of the purpose for which people are conscripted or the work they are forced to do. Work for the military is service in neither the nation’s interests nor those of humanity. We urge President Obama to make it clear that his call for public and community service is a call for genuine volunteerism and to dissociate his voluntary service proposals from any form of legal or financial coercion or linkage with military enlistment or military training. As to the fairness arguments, we share Rep. Rangel's concern for the targeting by military recruiters of people of color and of low-income youth—those with the fewest other options. It is a dramatic sign of social failure that, for many, joining the armed forces seems like the only path to financial security, personal growth, empowerment, and a sense of self-worth and belonging to a community. But a draft will not solve those problems. As pacifists, in any case, we reject all proposals to turn anyone, volunteer or conscript, into cannon fodder. As observers of history, we also note that no draft has ever fairly and impartially taken the children of the rich as well as those of the poor. We urge Rep. Rangel, President Obama, and others concerned with fairness and justice, to focus instead on investigating and overseeing recruiting practices and on creating alternatives to the military and to militarism (such as non-military vocational, violence reduction, and conflict resolution training, with financing that doesn't leave participants saddled with debt), rather than on trying to enlarge the pool of those subject to the abuses of the military. Rather than find ways to force the unwilling to fight unpopular wars, we should find ways to prevent, end, and abolish all wars. Congressional leaders, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and other Democrats and Republicans, have declared that they will never enact a draft. But they continue to authorize, fund, and maintain draft registration, the Selective Service System, and contingency planning for both a general draft and the Health Care Personnel Delivery System. We call on them, in particular on Speaker Pelosi, to match their actions to their words and enact legislation to (1) repeal the Military Selective Service Act and presidential authority to order draft registration, (2) abolish the Selective Service System, (3) defund and forbid contingency planning for any form of draft, and (4) eliminate the section of the proposed DREAM Act which attempts to coerce undocumented immigrant youth into joining the military, while passing the portion that would smooth the way for undocumented youth to attend college. We Resist When draft registration was reinstated for young men in 1980, more than a million potential draftees born in 1960 and 1961

opted out by boycotting the initial mass registration periods. In the quarter-century-plus since then, more millions have declined to register. Almost no one complies with the requirement to notify the Selective Service System of address changes until reaching age 26. These acts of noncompliance amount to mass nonviolent direct action, which provided, and continues to provide, safety in numbers for resisters. Beyond mere protest, they have rendered draft registration unenforceable and might well prevent any draft from being enforceable. The question is not whether Congress, the Pentagon, or the president want a draft, or believe it is necessary as a last resort. Whether there will be a draft rests with the people, not the Congress. This is a statement of fact, supported by history: Young people won't go, and the government can't make them. We urge Congress, the Pentagon, and the president to recognize the impossibility of a draft and to curtail their war plans accordingly. The draft is not an option, even as a last resort. We urge health care workers, and others with special skills in particular demand by the military, to take encouragement from the successful resistance to reinstatement of a general draft and to resist any activation of the Health Care Personnel Delivery System or any other form of special skills draft. As with a general draft, there is safety, solidarity, and effectiveness in numbers, openness, and organization. Polls suggest that many health care workers would actively avoid being drafted, whether through legal or illegal means. We welcome and encourage that inclination towards resistance, which we believe would make a medical or special skills draft as unenforceable as a general draft. We urge potential soldiers to reject both the carrot and the stick of military recruiting and conscription, and to refuse to be enlisted or to be inducted into any branch of the military or to work for the military as mercenaries or contractors. In solidarity with Veterans for Peace and Iraq Veterans Against the War, we extend support to GI resisters and antiwar veterans who are struggling to end the current U.S. wars. Whether or not they have registered, we promise all who resist militarism the same support and solidarity we extend to GI resisters, whether that resistance takes the form of refusing to register, refusing to notify the Selective Service System of address changes, refusing to report for induction, refusing to be inducted, refusing to report for military duty, applying for conscientious objector status, obtaining discharge on other grounds, going AWOL, or refusing orders within the military. We realize the Military Selective Service Act says that anyone who "knowingly counsels, aids, or abets another to refuse or evade registration or service in the armed forces" is committing a crime (see www.sss.gov/PDFs/MSSA-2003.pdf, sec. 462, p. 39). We wholeheartedly counsel, aid, and abet such resistance. The War Resisters League has never let the machinery of war or coercive laws limit the scope of our nonviolent actions. We call it peacemaking. We believe war is the real crime. As we build on our legacy of resistance, we hope you'll join us.

4/19/18	<p>Thank you, ladies and gentleman, for coming to Denver today to hear citizens' input. My name is Mathew Nicodemus, and I live in Boulder, Colorado. I have been a draft resister since 1978, which was three years after the end of the Vietnam-era draft registration requirement and two years before President Jimmy Carter reinstated compulsory registration. During my freshman year at Stanford University, I learned about the military draft, and out of a deep instinct and a knowledge of war that had been growing ever since I was old enough to watch the U.S., South Vietnamese, Vietcong, and North Vietnamese body counts and anti-war protests on the evening news, I decided that I would never allow myself to be drafted. My choice was so rapid and complete that I immediately joined over one hundred other students in signing a letter to then-U.S. Attorney General Griffin Bell declaring that, fully aware our actions could result in a prison term of up to five years and a \$10,000 fine, we pledged to refuse compliance with any future military conscription. I joined Stanford Against Conscription, and soon realized that I could never in good conscience avoid the draft by becoming a conscientious objector, knowing that others would be drafted to take my place in war. I understood that the only way to prevent or end military conscription and help end war would be to overwhelm the Selective Service System with draft resistance, and I understood that it was up to me personally to help build that resistance. I began working diligently to educate young people and the rest of American society about the draft and draft resistance, and to build a national resistance movement. Stanford Against Conscription compiled and distributed the first directory of college anti-draft groups, and we wrote an organizing guide for high school students and distributed it nationally. When I became eligible for the draft registration requirement which began in the summer of 1980, I joined two other resisters in Chicago and announced, at one of numerous simultaneous press conferences around the country, that we were proudly defying the Selective Service System. Our statements were broadcast throughout the country. Knowing that I could end up incarcerated, I visited a federal jail with resister friends to see what life was like inside, and I spoke with draft refusers of past eras to learn from their experiences. During the next six years, I alternated between being a student and war resistance activist and full-time organizer. I spoke to countless groups and individuals about the draft and resistance, publicly debated one Selective Service official and interviewed another in his Washington, D.C. office. I was co-editor of Resistance News, the national movement newspaper. I counseled many young men and their loved ones facing difficult decisions about military service. I communicated, collaborated, and cooperated with war resisters all over the U.S. and in other countries. I drove 7000 miles in two months on a nine-state, forty-four-city speaking tour. I had dozens and dozens of personal statements published or broadcast by news and other media, reaching millions of readers and viewers. I spoke at schools, churches, meeting halls, and conferences, and in numerous homes. I wrote and led crowds in war resistance songs and acted in numerous political theater pieces to convey the resistance message. And throughout it all, I met and was educated and inspired by the most amazing fellow travelers on the path to peace, people who were working just as hard and as long as I on all manners of different important social change projects, who were growing powerful movements for a better world. Why do I tell you all of these details? I tell you so that you can understand I and more individuals and organizations than you can imagine form a vast web, and a strong wall, of resistance to war, and resistance to drafting people so that war can be prepared for, threatened, and prosecuted by governments. Should you move further toward conscription, there will be waves of new resisters, who will be just as dedicated to the cause as I am. Our force against the Selective Slavery System will be mobilized and maintained as long as it threatens the health and well-being of our society and world. We will reach out to those who you endanger, those you plan to feed to the war machine, and we will encourage and support their disobedience to your compulsions. We're very experienced, we're very effective, we're growing in numbers, and we don't give up. It will be best for everyone if you do the right thing and act now to abolish the draft, dismantle the Selective Service System, and focus your efforts on promoting nonviolent public service that will help reduce the likelihood of military conflict. The opening of all military assignments to women in December 2015 eliminated the basis in military policy for requiring men but not women to register with the Selective Service System for a possible draft. If Congress does nothing, pending court cases are likely to produce a ruling that male-only</p>
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them—men like Dave Dellinger, Bill Sutherland, George Houser, Bayard Rustin, Lew Hill, Igal Roodenko, and Ralph DiGia—came, sooner or later, to WRL. Their commitment to confronting racism and belief in the importance of nonviolent resistance helped set the stage for the social movements of the next half century. Although more draft resisters were jailed during World War II (more than 5,000) than during the U.S. war against Vietnam (more than 3,000), WRL and anti-draft organization The Resistance helped build a mass movement against conscription and the Vietnam War that led to the abolition of the draft in 1973 and the eventual end of the war.

Because of our opposition to both militarism and injustice, even before the end of legal conscription, we became a prominent participant in the movement countering the “poverty draft”: the targeting by armed services recruiters of young people of color in the inner cities and lower-middle-income youth, especially in the South and rural areas. WRL has also resisted and continues to resist other expressions of militarism such as militarized toys and games, ROTC and JROTC, and the Trojan horse Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test, which masquerades as vocational guidance but has hidden inside it the Armed Forces Qualifying Test. When draft registration was revived in 1980, many organizations supported the rights of draft registration resisters. WRL went further, as one of the few major organizations actually advocating draft registration resistance. Coerced National Service: Thinly Camouflaged Militarism But ever since the first Gulf War, there have been periodic calls for a return to conscription. Some, including President Barack Obama, have advocated various "national service" schemes, some of them compulsory and therefore amounting to a draft. Others, prominent among them Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY), have argued that a draft would be more fair than the "poverty draft" relied on by recruiters for the present so-called all-volunteer military, or that more people would oppose war if they feared that they or their family members might be drafted. As to the national service proposals, compelled or coerced labor is conscription, not voluntary service, regardless of the purpose for which people are conscripted or the work they are forced to do. Work for the military is service in neither the nation’s interests nor those of humanity. We urge President Obama to make it clear that his call for public and community service is a call for genuine volunteerism and to dissociate his voluntary service proposals from any form of legal or financial coercion or linkage with military enlistment or military training. As to the fairness arguments, we share Rep. Rangel's concern for the targeting by military recruiters of people of color and of low-income youth—those with the fewest other options. It is a dramatic sign of social failure that, for many, joining the armed forces seems like the only path to financial security, personal growth, empowerment, and a sense of self-worth and belonging to a community. But a draft will not solve those problems. As pacifists, in any case, we reject all proposals to turn anyone, volunteer or conscript, into cannon fodder. As observers of history, we also note that no draft has ever fairly and impartially taken the children of the rich as well as those of the poor. We urge Rep. Rangel, President Obama, and others concerned with fairness and justice, to focus instead on investigating and overseeing recruiting practices and on creating alternatives to the military and to militarism (such as non-military vocational, violence reduction, and conflict resolution training, with financing that doesn't leave participants saddled with debt), rather than on trying to enlarge the pool of those subject to the abuses of the military. Rather than find ways to force the unwilling to fight unpopular wars, we should find ways to prevent, end, and abolish all wars. Congressional leaders, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and other Democrats and Republicans, have declared that they will never enact a draft. But they continue to authorize, fund, and maintain draft registration, the Selective Service System, and contingency planning for both a general draft and the Health Care Personnel Delivery System. We call on them, in particular on Speaker Pelosi, to match their actions to their words and enact legislation to (1) repeal the Military Selective Service Act and presidential authority to order draft registration, (2) abolish the Selective Service System, (3) defund and forbid contingency planning for any form of draft, and (4) eliminate the section of the proposed DREAM Act which attempts to coerce undocumented immigrant youth into joining the military, while passing the portion that would smooth the way for undocumented youth to attend college. We Resist When draft registration was reinstated for young men in 1980, more than a million potential draftees born in 1960 and 1961

opted out by boycotting the initial mass registration periods. In the quarter-century-plus since then, more millions have declined to register. Almost no one complies with the requirement to notify the Selective Service System of address changes until reaching age 26. These acts of noncompliance amount to mass nonviolent direct action, which provided, and continues to provide, safety in numbers for resisters. Beyond mere protest, they have rendered draft registration unenforceable and might well prevent any draft from being enforceable. The question is not whether Congress, the Pentagon, or the president want a draft, or believe it is necessary as a last resort. Whether there will be a draft rests with the people, not the Congress. This is a statement of fact, supported by history: Young people won't go, and the government can't make them. We urge Congress, the Pentagon, and the president to recognize the impossibility of a draft and to curtail their war plans accordingly. The draft is not an option, even as a last resort. We urge health care workers, and others with special skills in particular demand by the military, to take encouragement from the successful resistance to reinstatement of a general draft and to resist any activation of the Health Care Personnel Delivery System or any other form of special skills draft. As with a general draft, there is safety, solidarity, and effectiveness in numbers, openness, and organization. Polls suggest that many health care workers would actively avoid being drafted, whether through legal or illegal means. We welcome and encourage that inclination towards resistance, which we believe would make a medical or special skills draft as unenforceable as a general draft. We urge potential soldiers to reject both the carrot and the stick of military recruiting and conscription, and to refuse to be enlisted or to be inducted into any branch of the military or to work for the military as mercenaries or contractors. In solidarity with Veterans for Peace and Iraq Veterans Against the War, we extend support to GI resisters and antiwar veterans who are struggling to end the current U.S. wars. Whether or not they have registered, we promise all who resist militarism the same support and solidarity we extend to GI resisters, whether that resistance takes the form of refusing to register, refusing to notify the Selective Service System of address changes, refusing to report for induction, refusing to be inducted, refusing to report for military duty, applying for conscientious objector status, obtaining discharge on other grounds, going AWOL, or refusing orders within the military. We realize the Military Selective Service Act says that anyone who “knowingly counsels, aids, or abets another to refuse or evade registration or service in the armed forces” is committing a crime (see www.sss.gov/PDFs/MSSA-2003.pdf, sec. 462, p. 39). We wholeheartedly counsel, aid, and abet such resistance. The War Resisters League has never let the machinery of war or coercive laws limit the scope of our nonviolent actions. We call it peacemaking. We believe war is the real crime. As we build on our legacy of resistance, we hope you'll join us.

4/19/18	<p>Thank you, ladies and gentleman, for coming to Denver today to hear citizens' input. My name is Mathew Nicodemus, and I live in Boulder, Colorado. I have been a draft resister since 1978, which was three years after the end of the Vietnam-era draft registration requirement and two years before President Jimmy Carter reinstated compulsory registration. During my freshman year at Stanford University, I learned about the military draft, and out of a deep instinct and a knowledge of war that had been growing ever since I was old enough to watch the U.S., South Vietnamese, Vietcong, and North Vietnamese body counts and anti-war protests on the evening news, I decided that I would never allow myself to be drafted. My choice was so rapid and complete that I immediately joined over one hundred other students in signing a letter to then-U.S. Attorney General Griffin Bell declaring that, fully aware our actions could result in a prison term of up to five years and a \$10,000 fine, we pledged to refuse compliance with any future military conscription. I joined Stanford Against Conscription, and soon realized that I could never in good conscience avoid the draft by becoming a conscientious objector, knowing that others would be drafted to take my place in war. I understood that the only way to prevent or end military conscription and help end war would be to overwhelm the Selective Service System with draft resistance, and I understood that it was up to me personally to help build that resistance. I began working diligently to educate young people and the rest of American society about the draft and draft resistance, and to build a national resistance movement. Stanford Against Conscription compiled and distributed the first directory of college anti-draft groups, and we wrote an organizing guide for high school students and distributed it nationally. When I became eligible for the draft registration requirement which began in the summer of 1980, I joined two other resisters in Chicago and announced, at one of numerous simultaneous press conferences around the country, that we were proudly defying the Selective Service System. Our statements were broadcast throughout the country. Knowing that I could end up incarcerated, I visited a federal jail with resister friends to see what life was like inside, and I spoke with draft refusers of past eras to learn from their experiences. During the next six years, I alternated between being a student and war resistance activist and full-time organizer. I spoke to countless groups and individuals about the draft and resistance, publicly debated one Selective Service official and interviewed another in his Washington, D.C. office. I was co-editor of Resistance News, the national movement newspaper. I counseled many young men and their loved ones facing difficult decisions about military service. I communicated, collaborated, and cooperated with war resisters all over the U.S. and in other countries. I drove 7000 miles in two months on a nine-state, forty-four-city speaking tour. I had dozens and dozens of personal statements published or broadcast by news and other media, reaching millions of readers and viewers. I spoke at schools, churches, meeting halls, and conferences, and in numerous homes. I wrote and led crowds in war resistance songs and acted in numerous political theater pieces to convey the resistance message. And throughout it all, I met and was educated and inspired by the most amazing fellow travelers on the path to peace, people who were working just as hard and as long as I on all manners of different important social change projects, who were growing powerful movements for a better world. Why do I tell you all of these details? I tell you so that you can understand I and more individuals and organization than you can imagine form a vast web, and a strong wall, of resistance to war, and resistance to drafting people so that war can be prepared for, threatened, and prosecuted by governments. Should you move further toward conscription, there will be waves of new resisters, who will be just as dedicated to the cause as I am. Our force against the Selective Slavery System will be mobilized and maintained as long as it threatens the health and well-being of our society and world. We will reach out to those who you endanger, those you plan to feed to the war machine, and we will encourage and support their disobedience to your compulsions. We're very experienced, we're very effective, we're growing in numbers, and we don't give up. It will be best for everyone if you do the right thing and act now to abolish the draft, dismantle the Selective Service System, and focus your efforts on promoting nonviolent public service that will help reduce the likelihood of military conflict. The opening of all military assignments to women in December 2015 eliminated the basis in military policy for requiring men but not women to register with the Selective Service System for a possible draft. If Congress does nothing, pending court cases are likely to produce a ruling that male-only</p>
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them—men like Dave Dellinger, Bill Sutherland, George Houser, Bayard Rustin, Lew Hill, Igal Roodenko, and Ralph DiGia—came, sooner or later, to WRL. Their commitment to confronting racism and belief in the importance of nonviolent resistance helped set the stage for the social movements of the next half century. Although more draft resisters were jailed during World War II (more than 5,000) than during the U.S. war against Vietnam (more than 3,000), WRL and anti-draft organization The Resistance helped build a mass movement against conscription and the Vietnam War that led to the abolition of the draft in 1973 and the eventual end of the war.

Because of our opposition to both militarism and injustice, even before the end of legal conscription, we became a prominent participant in the movement countering the “poverty draft”: the targeting by armed services recruiters of young people of color in the inner cities and lower-middle-income youth, especially in the South and rural areas. WRL has also resisted and continues to resist other expressions of militarism such as militarized toys and games, ROTC and JROTC, and the Trojan horse Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test, which masquerades as vocational guidance but has hidden inside it the Armed Forces Qualifying Test. When draft registration was revived in 1980, many organizations supported the rights of draft registration resisters. WRL went further, as one of the few major organizations actually advocating draft registration resistance. Coerced National Service: Thinly Camouflaged Militarism But ever since the first Gulf War, there have been periodic calls for a return to conscription. Some, including President Barack Obama, have advocated various "national service" schemes, some of them compulsory and therefore amounting to a draft. Others, prominent among them Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY), have argued that a draft would be more fair than the "poverty draft" relied on by recruiters for the present so-called all-volunteer military, or that more people would oppose war if they feared that they or their family members might be drafted. As to the national service proposals, compelled or coerced labor is conscription, not voluntary service, regardless of the purpose for which people are conscripted or the work they are forced to do. Work for the military is service in neither the nation’s interests nor those of humanity. We urge President Obama to make it clear that his call for public and community service is a call for genuine volunteerism and to dissociate his voluntary service proposals from any form of legal or financial coercion or linkage with military enlistment or military training. As to the fairness arguments, we share Rep. Rangel's concern for the targeting by military recruiters of people of color and of low-income youth—those with the fewest other options. It is a dramatic sign of social failure that, for many, joining the armed forces seems like the only path to financial security, personal growth, empowerment, and a sense of self-worth and belonging to a community. But a draft will not solve those problems. As pacifists, in any case, we reject all proposals to turn anyone, volunteer or conscript, into cannon fodder. As observers of history, we also note that no draft has ever fairly and impartially taken the children of the rich as well as those of the poor. We urge Rep. Rangel, President Obama, and others concerned with fairness and justice, to focus instead on investigating and overseeing recruiting practices and on creating alternatives to the military and to militarism (such as non-military vocational, violence reduction, and conflict resolution training, with financing that doesn't leave participants saddled with debt), rather than on trying to enlarge the pool of those subject to the abuses of the military. Rather than find ways to force the unwilling to fight unpopular wars, we should find ways to prevent, end, and abolish all wars. Congressional leaders, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and other Democrats and Republicans, have declared that they will never enact a draft. But they continue to authorize, fund, and maintain draft registration, the Selective Service System, and contingency planning for both a general draft and the Health Care Personnel Delivery System. We call on them, in particular on Speaker Pelosi, to match their actions to their words and enact legislation to (1) repeal the Military Selective Service Act and presidential authority to order draft registration, (2) abolish the Selective Service System, (3) defund and forbid contingency planning for any form of draft, and (4) eliminate the section of the proposed DREAM Act which attempts to coerce undocumented immigrant youth into joining the military, while passing the portion that would smooth the way for undocumented youth to attend college. We Resist When draft registration was reinstated for young men in 1980, more than a million potential draftees born in 1960 and 1961

opted out by boycotting the initial mass registration periods. In the quarter-century-plus since then, more millions have declined to register. Almost no one complies with the requirement to notify the Selective Service System of address changes until reaching age 26. These acts of noncompliance amount to mass nonviolent direct action, which provided, and continues to provide, safety in numbers for resisters. Beyond mere protest, they have rendered draft registration unenforceable and might well prevent any draft from being enforceable. The question is not whether Congress, the Pentagon, or the president want a draft, or believe it is necessary as a last resort. Whether there will be a draft rests with the people, not the Congress. This is a statement of fact, supported by history: Young people won't go, and the government can't make them. We urge Congress, the Pentagon, and the president to recognize the impossibility of a draft and to curtail their war plans accordingly. The draft is not an option, even as a last resort. We urge health care workers, and others with special skills in particular demand by the military, to take encouragement from the successful resistance to reinstatement of a general draft and to resist any activation of the Health Care Personnel Delivery System or any other form of special skills draft. As with a general draft, there is safety, solidarity, and effectiveness in numbers, openness, and organization. Polls suggest that many health care workers would actively avoid being drafted, whether through legal or illegal means. We welcome and encourage that inclination towards resistance, which we believe would make a medical or special skills draft as unenforceable as a general draft. We urge potential soldiers to reject both the carrot and the stick of military recruiting and conscription, and to refuse to be enlisted or to be inducted into any branch of the military or to work for the military as mercenaries or contractors. In solidarity with Veterans for Peace and Iraq Veterans Against the War, we extend support to GI resisters and antiwar veterans who are struggling to end the current U.S. wars. Whether or not they have registered, we promise all who resist militarism the same support and solidarity we extend to GI resisters, whether that resistance takes the form of refusing to register, refusing to notify the Selective Service System of address changes, refusing to report for induction, refusing to be inducted, refusing to report for military duty, applying for conscientious objector status, obtaining discharge on other grounds, going AWOL, or refusing orders within the military. We realize the Military Selective Service Act says that anyone who “knowingly counsels, aids, or abets another to refuse or evade registration or service in the armed forces” is committing a crime (see www.sss.gov/PDFs/MSSA-2003.pdf, sec. 462, p. 39). We wholeheartedly counsel, aid, and abet such resistance. The War Resisters League has never let the machinery of war or coercive laws limit the scope of our nonviolent actions. We call it peacemaking. We believe war is the real crime. As we build on our legacy of resistance, we hope you'll join us.

4/19/18	<p>Thank you, ladies and gentleman, for coming to Denver today to hear citizens' input. My name is Mathew Nicodemus, and I live in Boulder, Colorado. I have been a draft resister since 1978, which was three years after the end of the Vietnam-era draft registration requirement and two years before President Jimmy Carter reinstated compulsory registration. During my freshman year at Stanford University, I learned about the military draft, and out of a deep instinct and a knowledge of war that had been growing ever since I was old enough to watch the U.S., South Vietnamese, Vietcong, and North Vietnamese body counts and anti-war protests on the evening news, I decided that I would never allow myself to be drafted. My choice was so rapid and complete that I immediately joined over one hundred other students in signing a letter to then-U.S. Attorney General Griffin Bell declaring that, fully aware our actions could result in a prison term of up to five years and a \$10,000 fine, we pledged to refuse compliance with any future military conscription. I joined Stanford Against Conscription, and soon realized that I could never in good conscience avoid the draft by becoming a conscientious objector, knowing that others would be drafted to take my place in war. I understood that the only way to prevent or end military conscription and help end war would be to overwhelm the Selective Service System with draft resistance, and I understood that it was up to me personally to help build that resistance. I began working diligently to educate young people and the rest of American society about the draft and draft resistance, and to build a national resistance movement. Stanford Against Conscription compiled and distributed the first directory of college anti-draft groups, and we wrote an organizing guide for high school students and distributed it nationally. When I became eligible for the draft registration requirement which began in the summer of 1980, I joined two other resisters in Chicago and announced, at one of numerous simultaneous press conferences around the country, that we were proudly defying the Selective Service System. Our statements were broadcast throughout the country. Knowing that I could end up incarcerated, I visited a federal jail with resister friends to see what life was like inside, and I spoke with draft refusers of past eras to learn from their experiences. During the next six years, I alternated between being a student and war resistance activist and full-time organizer. I spoke to countless groups and individuals about the draft and resistance, publicly debated one Selective Service official and interviewed another in his Washington, D.C. office. I was co-editor of Resistance News, the national movement newspaper. I counseled many young men and their loved ones facing difficult decisions about military service. I communicated, collaborated, and cooperated with war resisters all over the U.S. and in other countries. I drove 7000 miles in two months on a nine-state, forty-four-city speaking tour. I had dozens and dozens of personal statements published or broadcast by news and other media, reaching millions of readers and viewers. I spoke at schools, churches, meeting halls, and conferences, and in numerous homes. I wrote and led crowds in war resistance songs and acted in numerous political theater pieces to convey the resistance message. And throughout it all, I met and was educated and inspired by the most amazing fellow travelers on the path to peace, people who were working just as hard and as long as I on all manners of different important social change projects, who were growing powerful movements for a better world. Why do I tell you all of these details? I tell you so that you can understand I and more individuals and organization than you can imagine form a vast web, and a strong wall, of resistance to war, and resistance to drafting people so that war can be prepared for, threatened, and prosecuted by governments. Should you move further toward conscription, there will be waves of new resisters, who will be just as dedicated to the cause as I am. Our force against the Selective Slavery System will be mobilized and maintained as long as it threatens the health and well-being of our society and world. We will reach out to those who you endanger, those you plan to feed to the war machine, and we will encourage and support their disobedience to your compulsions. We're very experienced, we're very effective, we're growing in numbers, and we don't give up. It will be best for everyone if you do the right thing and act now to abolish the draft, dismantle the Selective Service System, and focus your efforts on promoting nonviolent public service that will help reduce the likelihood of military conflict. The opening of all military assignments to women in December 2015 eliminated the basis in military policy for requiring men but not women to register with the Selective Service System for a possible draft. If Congress does nothing, pending court cases are likely to produce a ruling that male-only</p>
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them—men like Dave Dellinger, Bill Sutherland, George Houser, Bayard Rustin, Lew Hill, Igal Roodenko, and Ralph DiGia—came, sooner or later, to WRL. Their commitment to confronting racism and belief in the importance of nonviolent resistance helped set the stage for the social movements of the next half century. Although more draft resisters were jailed during World War II (more than 5,000) than during the U.S. war against Vietnam (more than 3,000), WRL and anti-draft organization The Resistance helped build a mass movement against conscription and the Vietnam War that led to the abolition of the draft in 1973 and the eventual end of the war.

Because of our opposition to both militarism and injustice, even before the end of legal conscription, we became a prominent participant in the movement countering the “poverty draft”: the targeting by armed services recruiters of young people of color in the inner cities and lower-middle-income youth, especially in the South and rural areas. WRL has also resisted and continues to resist other expressions of militarism such as militarized toys and games, ROTC and JROTC, and the Trojan horse Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test, which masquerades as vocational guidance but has hidden inside it the Armed Forces Qualifying Test. When draft registration was revived in 1980, many organizations supported the rights of draft registration resisters. WRL went further, as one of the few major organizations actually advocating draft registration resistance. Coerced National Service: Thinly Camouflaged Militarism But ever since the first Gulf War, there have been periodic calls for a return to conscription. Some, including President Barack Obama, have advocated various "national service" schemes, some of them compulsory and therefore amounting to a draft. Others, prominent among them Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY), have argued that a draft would be more fair than the "poverty draft" relied on by recruiters for the present so-called all-volunteer military, or that more people would oppose war if they feared that they or their family members might be drafted. As to the national service proposals, compelled or coerced labor is conscription, not voluntary service, regardless of the purpose for which people are conscripted or the work they are forced to do. Work for the military is service in neither the nation’s interests nor those of humanity. We urge President Obama to make it clear that his call for public and community service is a call for genuine volunteerism and to dissociate his voluntary service proposals from any form of legal or financial coercion or linkage with military enlistment or military training. As to the fairness arguments, we share Rep. Rangel's concern for the targeting by military recruiters of people of color and of low-income youth—those with the fewest other options. It is a dramatic sign of social failure that, for many, joining the armed forces seems like the only path to financial security, personal growth, empowerment, and a sense of self-worth and belonging to a community. But a draft will not solve those problems. As pacifists, in any case, we reject all proposals to turn anyone, volunteer or conscript, into cannon fodder. As observers of history, we also note that no draft has ever fairly and impartially taken the children of the rich as well as those of the poor. We urge Rep. Rangel, President Obama, and others concerned with fairness and justice, to focus instead on investigating and overseeing recruiting practices and on creating alternatives to the military and to militarism (such as non-military vocational, violence reduction, and conflict resolution training, with financing that doesn't leave participants saddled with debt), rather than on trying to enlarge the pool of those subject to the abuses of the military. Rather than find ways to force the unwilling to fight unpopular wars, we should find ways to prevent, end, and abolish all wars. Congressional leaders, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and other Democrats and Republicans, have declared that they will never enact a draft. But they continue to authorize, fund, and maintain draft registration, the Selective Service System, and contingency planning for both a general draft and the Health Care Personnel Delivery System. We call on them, in particular on Speaker Pelosi, to match their actions to their words and enact legislation to (1) repeal the Military Selective Service Act and presidential authority to order draft registration, (2) abolish the Selective Service System, (3) defund and forbid contingency planning for any form of draft, and (4) eliminate the section of the proposed DREAM Act which attempts to coerce undocumented immigrant youth into joining the military, while passing the portion that would smooth the way for undocumented youth to attend college. We Resist When draft registration was reinstated for young men in 1980, more than a million potential draftees born in 1960 and 1961

opted out by boycotting the initial mass registration periods. In the quarter-century-plus since then, more millions have declined to register. Almost no one complies with the requirement to notify the Selective Service System of address changes until reaching age 26. These acts of noncompliance amount to mass nonviolent direct action, which provided, and continues to provide, safety in numbers for resisters. Beyond mere protest, they have rendered draft registration unenforceable and might well prevent any draft from being enforceable. The question is not whether Congress, the Pentagon, or the president want a draft, or believe it is necessary as a last resort. Whether there will be a draft rests with the people, not the Congress. This is a statement of fact, supported by history: Young people won't go, and the government can't make them. We urge Congress, the Pentagon, and the president to recognize the impossibility of a draft and to curtail their war plans accordingly. The draft is not an option, even as a last resort. We urge health care workers, and others with special skills in particular demand by the military, to take encouragement from the successful resistance to reinstatement of a general draft and to resist any activation of the Health Care Personnel Delivery System or any other form of special skills draft. As with a general draft, there is safety, solidarity, and effectiveness in numbers, openness, and organization. Polls suggest that many health care workers would actively avoid being drafted, whether through legal or illegal means. We welcome and encourage that inclination towards resistance, which we believe would make a medical or special skills draft as unenforceable as a general draft. We urge potential soldiers to reject both the carrot and the stick of military recruiting and conscription, and to refuse to be enlisted or to be inducted into any branch of the military or to work for the military as mercenaries or contractors. In solidarity with Veterans for Peace and Iraq Veterans Against the War, we extend support to GI resisters and antiwar veterans who are struggling to end the current U.S. wars. Whether or not they have registered, we promise all who resist militarism the same support and solidarity we extend to GI resisters, whether that resistance takes the form of refusing to register, refusing to notify the Selective Service System of address changes, refusing to report for induction, refusing to be inducted, refusing to report for military duty, applying for conscientious objector status, obtaining discharge on other grounds, going AWOL, or refusing orders within the military. We realize the Military Selective Service Act says that anyone who "knowingly counsels, aids, or abets another to refuse or evade registration or service in the armed forces" is committing a crime (see www.sss.gov/PDFs/MSSA-2003.pdf, sec. 462, p. 39). We wholeheartedly counsel, aid, and abet such resistance. The War Resisters League has never let the machinery of war or coercive laws limit the scope of our nonviolent actions. We call it peacemaking. We believe war is the real crime. As we build on our legacy of resistance, we hope you'll join us.

4/19/18	<p>Thank you, ladies and gentleman, for coming to Denver today to hear citizens' input. My name is Mathew Nicodemus, and I live in Boulder, Colorado. I have been a draft resister since 1978, which was three years after the end of the Vietnam-era draft registration requirement and two years before President Jimmy Carter reinstated compulsory registration. During my freshman year at Stanford University, I learned about the military draft, and out of a deep instinct and a knowledge of war that had been growing ever since I was old enough to watch the U.S., South Vietnamese, Vietcong, and North Vietnamese body counts and anti-war protests on the evening news, I decided that I would never allow myself to be drafted. My choice was so rapid and complete that I immediately joined over one hundred other students in signing a letter to then-U.S. Attorney General Griffin Bell declaring that, fully aware our actions could result in a prison term of up to five years and a \$10,000 fine, we pledged to refuse compliance with any future military conscription. I joined Stanford Against Conscription, and soon realized that I could never in good conscience avoid the draft by becoming a conscientious objector, knowing that others would be drafted to take my place in war. I understood that the only way to prevent or end military conscription and help end war would be to overwhelm the Selective Service System with draft resistance, and I understood that it was up to me personally to help build that resistance. I began working diligently to educate young people and the rest of American society about the draft and draft resistance, and to build a national resistance movement. Stanford Against Conscription compiled and distributed the first directory of college anti-draft groups, and we wrote an organizing guide for high school students and distributed it nationally. When I became eligible for the draft registration requirement which began in the summer of 1980, I joined two other resisters in Chicago and announced, at one of numerous simultaneous press conferences around the country, that we were proudly defying the Selective Service System. Our statements were broadcast throughout the country. Knowing that I could end up incarcerated, I visited a federal jail with resister friends to see what life was like inside, and I spoke with draft refusers of past eras to learn from their experiences. During the next six years, I alternated between being a student and war resistance activist and full-time organizer. I spoke to countless groups and individuals about the draft and resistance, publicly debated one Selective Service official and interviewed another in his Washington, D.C. office. I was co-editor of Resistance News, the national movement newspaper. I counseled many young men and their loved ones facing difficult decisions about military service. I communicated, collaborated, and cooperated with war resisters all over the U.S. and in other countries. I drove 7000 miles in two months on a nine-state, forty-four-city speaking tour. I had dozens and dozens of personal statements published or broadcast by news and other media, reaching millions of readers and viewers. I spoke at schools, churches, meeting halls, and conferences, and in numerous homes. I wrote and led crowds in war resistance songs and acted in numerous political theater pieces to convey the resistance message. And throughout it all, I met and was educated and inspired by the most amazing fellow travelers on the path to peace, people who were working just as hard and as long as I on all manners of different important social change projects, who were growing powerful movements for a better world. Why do I tell you all of these details? I tell you so that you can understand I and more individuals and organization than you can imagine form a vast web, and a strong wall, of resistance to war, and resistance to drafting people so that war can be prepared for, threatened, and prosecuted by governments. Should you move further toward conscription, there will be waves of new resisters, who will be just as dedicated to the cause as I am. Our force against the Selective Slavery System will be mobilized and maintained as long as it threatens the health and well-being of our society and world. We will reach out to those who you endanger, those you plan to feed to the war machine, and we will encourage and support their disobedience to your compulsions. We're very experienced, we're very effective, we're growing in numbers, and we don't give up. It will be best for everyone if you do the right thing and act now to abolish the draft, dismantle the Selective Service System, and focus your efforts on promoting nonviolent public service that will help reduce the likelihood of military conflict. The opening of all military assignments to women in December 2015 eliminated the basis in military policy for requiring men but not women to register with the Selective Service System for a possible draft. If Congress does nothing, pending court cases are likely to produce a ruling that male-only</p>
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We will reach out to those who you endanger, those you plan to feed to the war machine, and we will encourage and support their disobedience to your compulsions. We're very experienced, we're very effective, we're growing in numbers, and we don't give up. It will be best for everyone if you do the right thing and act now to abolish the draft, dismantle the Selective Service System, and focus your efforts on promoting nonviolent public service that will help reduce the likelihood of military conflict. The opening of all military assignments to women in December 2015 eliminated the basis in military policy for requiring men but not women to register with the Selective Service System for a possible draft. If Congress does nothing, pending court cases are likely to produce a ruling that male-only</p>
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draft registration is unconstitutional. Congress has thus been forced to consider whether to extend draft registration to women as well as men, or to end it for all. In 2016, Representatives Jared Polis (D-Boulder) and Mike Coffman (R-Aurora) introduced legislation to end draft registration, abolish the Selective Service System, and restore eligibility for Federal jobs, student aid, and other government programs to people who haven't registered for the draft. The Denver Post editorialized, "It's time to abolish the Selective Service and end the draft." Instead, Congress punted the question into the Trump Administration by creating a commission to study the issue and report back to Congress and the President by October 2020. That national commission will be in Denver April 19th for the second of its open-mic public hearings. We're here to point out that the Emperor has no clothes: Draft registration has failed. Widespread noncompliance has rendered it unenforceable. Any attempt at conscription would meet the same fate. In the years after draft registration was reinstated in 1980, we worked as organizers with the National Resistance Committee and as co-editors of Resistance News, the national journal of resistance to draft registration. We publicly refused to register and encouraged others to join us in resistance. Hundreds of thousands at first, and millions over the decades to follow, did so. Faced with far greater noncompliance than it had anticipated, the government tried to scare young men into registering by prosecuting a handful of vocal nonregistrants. One of us (Hasbrouck) was convicted of refusal to register and served 4 1/2 months in a Federal Prison Camp in 1983-1984. But show trials backfired. They made clear that there was safety in numbers and that only those who spoke up could be prosecuted. In 1988, after only 20 nonregistrants had been indicted, the Department of Justice gave up on trying to enforce the registration requirement. Young men today have to register in order to be eligible for student aid and some other government programs, including drivers' licenses in some states including Colorado (although not others, including California). But there's no attempt to verify addresses. Men are supposed to tell the Selective Service System every time they move until they are 26, but almost nobody does. The only audit of the database, in 1982, found that 20 to 40 percent of the addresses were already outdated. Most of the people subject to draft registration have violated the law, and most induction notices would end up in the dead letter office. Noncompliance has made the registration database useless as the basis for a draft. Bernard Rostker, Director of the Selective Service System from 1979-1981, told an interviewer in December 2017, "It's a list that I'm sure the courts would throw out immediately because it's not accurate." Draft registration has continued only because there's been no face-saving way for the government to admit that its power to conscript is constrained by the willingness of potential draftees to submit. The Commission is also supposed to report on, "the feasibility... of modifying the military selective service process in order to obtain... individuals with... medical, dental, and nursing skills, language skills, cyber skills, and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) skills) ... without regard to age or sex." But it's absurdly naive to think that women or older health and IT workers would be more willing to submit to conscription than young men have been. The commission should report to Congress and the President that, whether or not they agree with or understand the reasons for our resistance, a draft is not feasible and draft registration should be ended. Hell, No! We still won't go! War Resisters League Calls for Renewed Resistance to Conscription and Militarism. Even 45 years after its demise, the specter of the draft continues to haunt the United States. In much of the world, military conscription remains a cruel and heavy burden on the young. In the United States, conscription is a horror-movie corpse that won't stay dead. President Carter exhumed draft registration in 1980, and proposals for compulsory "national service" loom. The War Resisters League makes this statement to urge all of us not to praise the draft, but to bury it once and for all. Resisting Conscription for 95 Years (and Counting) WRL was born out of draft resistance. It was founded in 1923 out of support circles for World War I conscientious objectors, especially those whose objection to military service was based on secular, rather than religious, principle. Many were still suffering social and criminal sanctions for their refusal to serve in the war that was to end all war. Instead, the Great War set the stage for a greater war. Again, secular COs were jailed by the hundreds. This time, however, the most radical among

them—men like Dave Dellinger, Bill Sutherland, George Houser, Bayard Rustin, Lew Hill, Igal Roodenko, and Ralph DiGia—came, sooner or later, to WRL. Their commitment to confronting racism and belief in the importance of nonviolent resistance helped set the stage for the social movements of the next half century. Although more draft resisters were jailed during World War II (more than 5,000) than during the U.S. war against Vietnam (more than 3,000), WRL and anti-draft organization The Resistance helped build a mass movement against conscription and the Vietnam War that led to the abolition of the draft in 1973 and the eventual end of the war.

Because of our opposition to both militarism and injustice, even before the end of legal conscription, we became a prominent participant in the movement countering the “poverty draft”: the targeting by armed services recruiters of young people of color in the inner cities and lower-middle-income youth, especially in the South and rural areas. WRL has also resisted and continues to resist other expressions of militarism such as militarized toys and games, ROTC and JROTC, and the Trojan horse Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test, which masquerades as vocational guidance but has hidden inside it the Armed Forces Qualifying Test. When draft registration was revived in 1980, many organizations supported the rights of draft registration resisters. WRL went further, as one of the few major organizations actually advocating draft registration resistance. Coerced National Service: Thinly Camouflaged Militarism But ever since the first Gulf War, there have been periodic calls for a return to conscription. Some, including President Barack Obama, have advocated various "national service" schemes, some of them compulsory and therefore amounting to a draft. Others, prominent among them Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY), have argued that a draft would be more fair than the "poverty draft" relied on by recruiters for the present so-called all-volunteer military, or that more people would oppose war if they feared that they or their family members might be drafted. As to the national service proposals, compelled or coerced labor is conscription, not voluntary service, regardless of the purpose for which people are conscripted or the work they are forced to do. Work for the military is service in neither the nation’s interests nor those of humanity. We urge President Obama to make it clear that his call for public and community service is a call for genuine volunteerism and to dissociate his voluntary service proposals from any form of legal or financial coercion or linkage with military enlistment or military training. As to the fairness arguments, we share Rep. Rangel's concern for the targeting by military recruiters of people of color and of low-income youth—those with the fewest other options. It is a dramatic sign of social failure that, for many, joining the armed forces seems like the only path to financial security, personal growth, empowerment, and a sense of self-worth and belonging to a community. But a draft will not solve those problems. As pacifists, in any case, we reject all proposals to turn anyone, volunteer or conscript, into cannon fodder. As observers of history, we also note that no draft has ever fairly and impartially taken the children of the rich as well as those of the poor. We urge Rep. Rangel, President Obama, and others concerned with fairness and justice, to focus instead on investigating and overseeing recruiting practices and on creating alternatives to the military and to militarism (such as non-military vocational, violence reduction, and conflict resolution training, with financing that doesn't leave participants saddled with debt), rather than on trying to enlarge the pool of those subject to the abuses of the military. Rather than find ways to force the unwilling to fight unpopular wars, we should find ways to prevent, end, and abolish all wars. Congressional leaders, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and other Democrats and Republicans, have declared that they will never enact a draft. But they continue to authorize, fund, and maintain draft registration, the Selective Service System, and contingency planning for both a general draft and the Health Care Personnel Delivery System. We call on them, in particular on Speaker Pelosi, to match their actions to their words and enact legislation to (1) repeal the Military Selective Service Act and presidential authority to order draft registration, (2) abolish the Selective Service System, (3) defund and forbid contingency planning for any form of draft, and (4) eliminate the section of the proposed DREAM Act which attempts to coerce undocumented immigrant youth into joining the military, while passing the portion that would smooth the way for undocumented youth to attend college. We Resist When draft registration was reinstated for young men in 1980, more than a million potential draftees born in 1960 and 1961

opted out by boycotting the initial mass registration periods. In the quarter-century-plus since then, more millions have declined to register. Almost no one complies with the requirement to notify the Selective Service System of address changes until reaching age 26. These acts of noncompliance amount to mass nonviolent direct action, which provided, and continues to provide, safety in numbers for resisters. Beyond mere protest, they have rendered draft registration unenforceable and might well prevent any draft from being enforceable. The question is not whether Congress, the Pentagon, or the president want a draft, or believe it is necessary as a last resort. Whether there will be a draft rests with the people, not the Congress. This is a statement of fact, supported by history: Young people won't go, and the government can't make them. We urge Congress, the Pentagon, and the president to recognize the impossibility of a draft and to curtail their war plans accordingly. The draft is not an option, even as a last resort. We urge health care workers, and others with special skills in particular demand by the military, to take encouragement from the successful resistance to reinstatement of a general draft and to resist any activation of the Health Care Personnel Delivery System or any other form of special skills draft. As with a general draft, there is safety, solidarity, and effectiveness in numbers, openness, and organization. Polls suggest that many health care workers would actively avoid being drafted, whether through legal or illegal means. We welcome and encourage that inclination towards resistance, which we believe would make a medical or special skills draft as unenforceable as a general draft. We urge potential soldiers to reject both the carrot and the stick of military recruiting and conscription, and to refuse to be enlisted or to be inducted into any branch of the military or to work for the military as mercenaries or contractors. In solidarity with Veterans for Peace and Iraq Veterans Against the War, we extend support to GI resisters and antiwar veterans who are struggling to end the current U.S. wars. Whether or not they have registered, we promise all who resist militarism the same support and solidarity we extend to GI resisters, whether that resistance takes the form of refusing to register, refusing to notify the Selective Service System of address changes, refusing to report for induction, refusing to be inducted, refusing to report for military duty, applying for conscientious objector status, obtaining discharge on other grounds, going AWOL, or refusing orders within the military. We realize the Military Selective Service Act says that anyone who "knowingly counsels, aids, or abets another to refuse or evade registration or service in the armed forces" is committing a crime (see www.sss.gov/PDFs/MSSA-2003.pdf, sec. 462, p. 39). We wholeheartedly counsel, aid, and abet such resistance. The War Resisters League has never let the machinery of war or coercive laws limit the scope of our nonviolent actions. We call it peacemaking. We believe war is the real crime. As we build on our legacy of resistance, we hope you'll join us.

4/19/18	<p>Thank you, ladies and gentleman, for coming to Denver today to hear citizens' input. My name is Mathew Nicodemus, and I live in Boulder, Colorado. I have been a draft resister since 1978, which was three years after the end of the Vietnam-era draft registration requirement and two years before President Jimmy Carter reinstated compulsory registration. During my freshman year at Stanford University, I learned about the military draft, and out of a deep instinct and a knowledge of war that had been growing ever since I was old enough to watch the U.S., South Vietnamese, Vietcong, and North Vietnamese body counts and anti-war protests on the evening news, I decided that I would never allow myself to be drafted. My choice was so rapid and complete that I immediately joined over one hundred other students in signing a letter to then-U.S. Attorney General Griffin Bell declaring that, fully aware our actions could result in a prison term of up to five years and a \$10,000 fine, we pledged to refuse compliance with any future military conscription. I joined Stanford Against Conscription, and soon realized that I could never in good conscience avoid the draft by becoming a conscientious objector, knowing that others would be drafted to take my place in war. I understood that the only way to prevent or end military conscription and help end war would be to overwhelm the Selective Service System with draft resistance, and I understood that it was up to me personally to help build that resistance. I began working diligently to educate young people and the rest of American society about the draft and draft resistance, and to build a national resistance movement. Stanford Against Conscription compiled and distributed the first directory of college anti-draft groups, and we wrote an organizing guide for high school students and distributed it nationally. When I became eligible for the draft registration requirement which began in the summer of 1980, I joined two other resisters in Chicago and announced, at one of numerous simultaneous press conferences around the country, that we were proudly defying the Selective Service System. Our statements were broadcast throughout the country. Knowing that I could end up incarcerated, I visited a federal jail with resister friends to see what life was like inside, and I spoke with draft refusers of past eras to learn from their experiences. During the next six years, I alternated between being a student and war resistance activist and full-time organizer. I spoke to countless groups and individuals about the draft and resistance, publicly debated one Selective Service official and interviewed another in his Washington, D.C. office. I was co-editor of Resistance News, the national movement newspaper. I counseled many young men and their loved ones facing difficult decisions about military service. I communicated, collaborated, and cooperated with war resisters all over the U.S. and in other countries. I drove 7000 miles in two months on a nine-state, forty-four-city speaking tour. I had dozens and dozens of personal statements published or broadcast by news and other media, reaching millions of readers and viewers. I spoke at schools, churches, meeting halls, and conferences, and in numerous homes. I wrote and led crowds in war resistance songs and acted in numerous political theater pieces to convey the resistance message. And throughout it all, I met and was educated and inspired by the most amazing fellow travelers on the path to peace, people who were working just as hard and as long as I on all manners of different important social change projects, who were growing powerful movements for a better world. Why do I tell you all of these details? I tell you so that you can understand I and more individuals and organizations than you can imagine form a vast web, and a strong wall, of resistance to war, and resistance to drafting people so that war can be prepared for, threatened, and prosecuted by governments. Should you move further toward conscription, there will be waves of new resisters, who will be just as dedicated to the cause as I am. Our force against the Selective Slavery System will be mobilized and maintained as long as it threatens the health and well-being of our society and world. We will reach out to those who you endanger, those you plan to feed to the war machine, and we will encourage and support their disobedience to your compulsions. We're very experienced, we're very effective, we're growing in numbers, and we don't give up. It will be best for everyone if you do the right thing and act now to abolish the draft, dismantle the Selective Service System, and focus your efforts on promoting nonviolent public service that will help reduce the likelihood of military conflict. The opening of all military assignments to women in December 2015 eliminated the basis in military policy for requiring men but not women to register with the Selective Service System for a possible draft. If Congress does nothing, pending court cases are likely to produce a ruling that male-only</p>
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4/19/18	<p>Focus on young people- increasingly adults of all aged are engaged in service. We have to think about how these programs have changed with new demographics and different mohsahuns Inspired and eager to service We assume young people are able to serve. The living sheperds and educational benefits are not enough to support young folk of low SES status to serve. We assume members are white and middle class. This rhetoric DOES NOT WORK for diverse communicites. National v. Public Service Please note that AmeriCorps Members are national service members who take an oath to serve America and get things done for you country, It's perplexing to call federal government employees part of national service. We call them public servants, not national servants. National Service. I chose national service because of my background and the education award. To make ends meet, I lived in a shed and worked nights though it was disallowed.</p>
4/19/18	<p>Dear Commissioners, The Boulder Colorado Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) Meeting thanks the Commission for the opportunity to provide its testimony regarding the matters of military and other public service. Our testimony is grounded in our belief that war is wrong, and that violence is not the way to obtain personal, national, or international peace and security among peoples and nations. We do instead believe in the peaceful prevention of violence and war. We seek to buold peace and security through pursuing and sharing developments in health, sustainable environment, equality practices, and non-discrimination among all peoples, regardless of race, gender, religion, ethnicity, or national origin. Security and peace is a condition that can only be achieved and must be shared between all parties, not something imposed by military force and the use of violence. Security is achieved when all parties can share in not being threatened by the other... it is a condition that lies between all parties. To the matters of the Selective Service (draft) and Military Service of the United States: (1) We find that the current law requiring all males of draft age to register for military service should be eliminated. (2) We also find that the proposal that females should be included in registration for military service should likewise not occur. (3) There should be associated denials or limitations of public service opportunities and benefits (such as access to health care, education, admission or financial aid to attend universities, drivers' licenses, and any other social service benefits) based upon state, local or national requirements of mandatory registration for military service. (4) If the Selective Service registration and draft laws are not eliminated, a clear and easy process should be established for registrants and active duty or reserves to declare that they conscientiously object to military service. This personal declaration of conscientious objection should not be tied to a particular religious belief or membership in a religious organization. The only requirement should be a personal moral conscience that violence against others is wrong. Overall, we find that the extreme militarization of the United States is destructive, creates enemies, and is counter-productive to the goal of world peace. Violence creates more violence. We strongly support major reductions in both military funding and aggressive international policies. Acknowledging that our nation has been in a state of perpetual war for more than half a century, we advocate for sharing peaceful technologies, promoting international programs of equality in education and economic opportunities, access to public health, clean water, air and safe foods, and environmental protection and preservation. Excessive US militarization also seriously drains our resrouces for developing equal opportunities for health, well being, and pece, within our own nation, by misdirecting assets away from much needed domestic programs for community resilience and opportunity. Regarding Non-Military Public Service- We firmly believe in service to others and to the natural world in which we all live. Our lives must be about service and sharing to make us whole. There are many ways to engage in such service to others, both in our personal lives and actions, and in our vocations, be they in the public/governmental sector, or in private businesses or non-profit activities. All such activities must always be conducted in non-violentfashio; that is the key to being consistent with respect for life, non-violence, and peace. These must always be the foundational criteria for public service. Again we thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to Commission. We look forward to possible opportunities to provide oral testimony at listening sessions in our area.</p>

4/19/18	<p>The Declaration of Independence - 1776. In Congress-July 4, 1776. The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.--Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world. He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only. He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures. He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.</p> <p>He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within. He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers. He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries. He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance. He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures. He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power. He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation: For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us: For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States: For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world: For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury: For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the</p>
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same absolute rule into these Colonies: For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments: For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever. He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us. He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people. He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation. He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands. He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions. In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people. Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our Brittish brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends. We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor. John Hancock, New Hampshire. Josiah Bartlett, Matthew Thornton, Wm. Whipple, Massachusetts Bay. Saml. Adams, Robt. Treat Payne, John Adams, Elbridge Gerry, Rhode Island. Steph. Hopkins, William Ellery, Connecticut. Roger Sherman, Wm. Williams, Sam'el Huntington, Oliver Wolcott, Virginia. George Wythe, Thos. Nelson, Jr., Richard Henry Less, Francis Lightfoot Lee, Th. Jefferson, Benja. Harrison, Carter Braxton, New York. Wm. Floyd, Frans Lewis, Phil Livingston, Lewis Morris, North Carolina. Wm. Hooper, John Penn, Joseph Hewes, New Jersey. Richd. Stockton, John Hart, Jno. Witherspoon, Abra. Clark, Frs. Hopkinson, South Carolina. Thos. Heyward Junr., Thomas Lynch Junr., Edward Rutledge, Arthuer Middleton, Pennsylvania. Robt. Morris, Jas. Smith, Benjamin Rush, Geo. Taylor, Benja. Franklin, James Wilson, John Morton, Geo. Ross, Geo. Glymer, Georgia. Button Gwinnett, Geo. Walton, Lyman Hall, Delaware. Caesar Rodney, Tho. M'Kean, Geo. Read, Maryland. Samuel Chase, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Wm. Paca, Thos. Stone,

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In the 30 years since the failure of draft registration and the abandonment of any attempt to enforce the requirement for young men to register with the Selective Service System, there has been far too little attention paid to the (un)feasibility of a draft based on the current registration database, or to the implications for military policy of the failure of draft registration and the unavailability of a draft as a realistic policy option, even as a last resort. I urge this Commission to report to Congress and the President that no public benefit is being derived from the operations of the Selective Service System, because: (1) most people subject to the registration requirement do not comply, (2) the registration requirement is unenforceable and has proven to be so for decades, (3) the current Selective Service registration database could not be used as the basis for a workable draft, and (4) compliance with orders to report for induction would be even lower than compliance with registration, and even harder to enforce. I urge this Commission to recommend repeal of the Military Selective Service Act, abolition of the Selective Service System, expungement of the Selective Service registration database, and restoration of eligibility for Federal jobs, student aid, and all other Federal programs for individuals who have not registered with the Selective Service System. These recommendations are based on practicalities, not political opinions, informed by intimate personal experience in, and intimate familiarity with the documentary record of, the history of compliance with and enforcement of draft registration since 1980. Beginning with the resumption of the draft registration in 1980, and continuing through the U.S. proxy war in Afghanistan in the 1980s and the U.S. invasions of Kuwait and Iraq in 1991, I served as an (unpaid) organizer with the National Resistance Committee as an (unpaid) co-editor of Resistance News, the national journal of resistance to draft registration. In 1983-1984, I served 4 1/2 months in the custody of the U.S. Attorney General, most of that time in a Federal Prison Camp, for my willful refusal to submit to registration with the Selective Service System, and for organizing and encouraging resistance to draft registration. Today, I serve as (unpaid) editor and maintainer of Resisters.info, a Web site about the draft, draft registration, draft resistance, and health care workers and women and the draft. There is no other service I have done in my life of which I am more proud. When President Carter proposed to reinstate draft registration in 1980, he described it as a response to Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. But if the the U.S. had sent draftees my age to Afghanistan in the 1980s, which side would we have been fightin on? It should not be forgotten that when draft registration was reinstated, the U.S. was arming and funding the warlords and "mujahideen" who were then fighting against the USSR, and would later turn against the U.S. The U.S. government put me in prison for refusing to agree to fight on the side of the people who would later become the Taliban and Al Qaeda! It's no wonder that people of my generation and after have no faith in the ability of the U.S. government to decide for us in which wars, or on which (if any) side, we should fight. But it's not necessary for this Commission, the Congress, or the President to agree with or even to understand the reasons why some people resist the draft and draft registration to assess whether a draft would be feasible - and to conclude, on the evidence, that it would not. Before Congress reinstated Presidential authority to order draft registration in 1980, Congress received clear and explicit warning, from the most knowledgeable of experts, as to exactly what would happen, and in the event did, if and when it tried to resume registration. On 14 April 1980, while legislation to reinstate presidential authority for draft registration and to bring the Selective Service System back from "deep standby" was pending in Congress, the Subcommittee on Courts, Civil Liberties, and the Administration of Justice of the House Committee on the Judiciary held the first of a series of hearing on, "The Civil Liberties and Administration of Justice Implications of Draft Registration."</p>
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The hearing opened with a prescient statement by Curtis W. Tarr, who had been the Director of the Selective Service System from 1970-1972: "My judgement is that in this national climate, offenders would constitute a significant portion of the total pool. If a person were apprehended for failure to obey the law, the next problem would be prosecution... I doubt whether U.S. Attorneys or Federal Judges would attempt to convict young people in numbers that would ensure reasonable compliance with the law. Reacting to the laxity, counselors would soon advise young people not to register since the penalty would be inconsequential in the unlikely event that the offender were caught. Once registration has taken place, then records must be maintained. Enforcing a requirement to notify selective service of a changed address would be even more difficult than enforcing the duty to register. Again, courts would not wish to treat this failure as a serious transgression, a further encouragement to non-compliance. Thus I foresee the possibility of evasion by large numbers that would overwhelm the agencies for law enforcement and judiciary." At the same series of hearings, the Subcommittee heard testimony from opponents of draft registration who described plans and preparations for organized resistance to draft registration. They introduced into the hearing record the founding "Call for Resistance" to draft registration which had been issued earlier that year by the National Resistance Committee, the organization with which I was then working, and which had been distributed at the national "Mobilization Against the Draft" marches against draft registration by tens of thousands of people in Washington, DC, and San Francisco, CA, on 22 March 1980. Congress and the President ignored Dr. Tarr's warning, but noncompliance with the registration and change of address notification requirements, and the eventual unwillingness of the Department of Justice to continue prosecutions that were failing to deter widespread noncompliance, unfolded exactly as Dr. Tarr had predicted. This Commission, and the Congress and President who will consider it recommendations, should not make the same mistake that Congress and the President made in 1980 of failing to look backward at history and forward to the foreseeable future to assess, realistically, the feasibility of enforcing draft registration and a draft based on it. When men born in 1960, 1961, and 1962 were ordered to register at Post Offices during mass registration weeks in 1980 and 1981, far more of us stayed home than even the most optimistic supporters of draft resistance had hoped for. Over the next year, widespread publicity about the extent of noncompliance created an increasing crisis of public legitimacy for draft registration and the Selective Service System. In July 1982, less than a month after the first indictment for violating the new draft registration requirement, Justice Department officials were called before the same Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee to answer questions about whether or how they planned to enforce draft registration in the face of the widespread noncompliance. David J. Kline, Senior attorney with the General Litigation and Legal Advice Section of the Criminal Division, and Lawrence Lippe, Chief of the General Litigation and Legal Advice Section, appeared before the House Subcommittee on behalf of the Department of Justice. Even when specifically asked, they declined to tell Congress what prosecution policy had been decided on by the Department of Justice or what instructions had been given to U.S. Attorneys. But internal Department of Justice documents describing and discussing those policies were disclosed to indicted nonregistrants a few months later during pretrial discovery. The enforcement strategy adopted by the Department of Justice was explained in a memo drafted by Kline and sent over Lippe's signature to D. Lowell Jensen, Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division: "The total number of nonregistrants will doubtless remain very high when measured against the Department's prosecutive resources. However, an initial round of well publicized, successful prosecutions should have a dramatic effect in further reducing the number of non-registrants...We first would have to accept the simple fact that, although some persons will be prosecuted, there will be others who are neither registered nor prosecuted. Nevertheless, such a policy, geared to present funding levels, might well yield sufficient general deterrence so that the Selective Service system receives sufficient registrations to maintain the credibility of the system." Kline's plan was approved, and he instructed all U.S. Attorneys accordingly: "We request that United States Attorneys assign any non-registration matters in their districts to experienced Assistant United States Attorneys and ensure that such matters are handled on a priority basis. If the non-registration matters pending

within your district can be sufficiently investigated within a short period of time, indictments should be sought before the end of June [1982]." But prosecutions of selected nonregistrants failed to "yield sufficient general deterrence so that the Selective Service system receives sufficient registrations to maintain the credibility of the system." Compliance declined following the prosecutions, for at least three reasons: First, the overwhelming majority of U.S. Attorneys to whom nonregistration cases were referred ignored their instructions from Washington and chose not to seek indictments - exactly as former Selective Service Director Tarr had predicted to Congress in 1980. Hundreds of cases of nonregistrants, possibly as many as 2,000 were referred to U.S. Attorneys between 1980 and 1988, when prosecutions were suspended. Only 20 of these cases - perhaps as little as 1% of the total - led to indictments. These were easy cases. Almost all of the nonregistration cases referred to U.S. Attorneys were of people who had informed the government of our refusal to register, usually by writing to the Selective Service or other officials, and/or who had publicized our refusal. Some young men undoubtedly took the opportunity to register without penalty once they were visited by the FBI and told that if they didn't register, they might be indicted. But many, probably at least several hundred, still refused to register. In the overwhelming majority of these cases, U.S. Attorneys exercised their discretion not to prosecute. Second, the prosecutions of self-identified nonregistrants did nothing to intimidate the much larger numbers who had quietly ignored registration. The Supreme Court upheld the legality of selecting nonregistrants for prosecution on the basis of whether we had spoken out about our resistance, on the theory that locking up the "most vocal" nonregistrants would have the greatest deterrent effect on others. But that theory was proven wrong. Nonregistrants weren't fools. They got the message, loud and clear, that there was safety in silence as well as safety in numbers, and little or no risk of prosecution unless they chose to single themselves out in the most flagrant possible ways. The selective prosecutions and the publicity about selective prosecution, reassured and encouraged quiet nonregistrants. Third, the government had to prove actual knowledge of the requirement to register. That ensured that nonregistrants would get a "last chance" to register after being given personal notice of their duty to register, and could wait to register until then with impunity. In the one case in which the government picked out and indicted a nonregistrant who hadn't publicized or informed the government about his knowledge of the registration requirement, the prosecutor had to drop the charges in embarrassment when it became clear that the man indicted hadn't known that he was required to register. In the one case of a vocal nonregistrant who chose not to concede the element of knowledge and willfulness at trial, the conviction was eventually overturned because the trial judge had failed to instruct the jury adequately about the government's burden of proving actual knowledge of the registration requirement. To the extent that they heard about these cases, men subject to draft registration learned that if they were singled out for possible prosecution, they would have to be offered a "last chance" to register without penalty after they were personally advised of their legal obligation to register. Unless and until they were given such a "final warning" in person by the FBI, they could quietly ignore registration without incurring any real risk of prosecution. It became clear that for someone who wanted neither to be drafted nor to be jailed, the safest course of action was, as it still is today, to quietly ignore registration. In 1988, the Department of Justice threw in the towel and suspended prosecutions of nonregistrants - a suspension that has continued to this day, 30 years later. The 1988 decision to suspend prosecutions was publicly disclosed by a Selective Service System spokesperson in a 2016 interview with U.S. News & World Report: "In the late '80s the Justice Department discontinued prosecutions. Dick Flahavan, a spokesman for the Selective Service who was with the agency at the time, recalls the Justice Department 'decided that since there was no draft and there was high compliance, there are limited resources and the FBI's time would be better spent chasing white collar crime than some Mennonite kid through Pennsylvania. We said, 'Fine, we understand,' and that's why it ended in '88,' he says. 'The agency [Selective Service System] did agree to what the Justice Department proposed, a suspension of prosecutions [during peace time]. Since they did the prosecutions we didn't have much leverage anyways...' Flahavan says the Selective Service had hoped for a much stronger approach from federal prosecutors, but was rebuffed... If someone registered just before trial, the prosecution would be

dropped Flahavan notes, making the pursuit of resisters 'really a losing proposition for the feds" and often "a big waste of time.' In 1987 a Justice Department spokesman told the New York Times it was preparing a policy through which the Selective Service System would periodically refer 200 names for prosecution. But that never happened. I think they were happy to walk away from it and we understand why,' Flahavan says. 'It was very labor intensive and very little came of it, although the government won [in the sense that most of the 20 men indicted were convicted].'" Any plan to continue draft registration, expand it to women and/or to individuals with specified skills, and/or use it as the basis for a draft or compulsory "service" would either have to include a plausible plan for enforcement of registration or acknowledge that individuals can opt out of registration without risk of prosecution, as long as they do so quietly. But nonregistration is only the tip of the iceberg of noncompliance with draft registration. Nonregistration is neither the most common form of noncompliance with draft registration, the most difficult to enforce, nor the most significant in the effect it would have on any attempt to use the current registration database as the basis for a draft. Most young men, although far from all (and far fewer than is generally assumed), register with the Selective Service System at some time, at some address. Most often this is either because they live in a state that links draft registration to obtaining a drivers license or to other state programs, because they are seeking Federal financial aid or loan guarantee for education or job training, or because draft registration is a condition of U.S. residency or naturalization as a U.S. citizen. It's important to note, however, that a substantial portion of the U.S. population lives in states including California where there is no linkage of draft registration to any state program. Use of drivers' license funds for draft registration or other purposes unrelated to motor vehicle operations would violate California's state Constitution, and the California legislature has voted repeatedly against bills to link drivers' licenses to draft registration. It's also important to recognize that if the only reason people have registered with the Selective Service System is in order to obtain a drivers' license or a student loan, the fact that they are registered says nothing about whether they would be willing to be drafted. But the draft registration is a continuing obligation, not a once-in-a-lifetime act. All male U.S. citizens or residents are required to notify the Selective Service System each time they change their residence until they reach their 26th birthday. Compliance with this requirement to notify the Selective Service System of changes of address is extremely low. Most men subject to draft registration have moved without notifying the Selective Service System. Most addresses on file with the Selective Service System are obsolete. If a draft were to be conducted based on the current registration database, most induction notices would either wind up in the dead letter office, or would be delivered to former addresses, most likely parents' addresses at which registrants lived when they were 18. There has been no independent audit of the accuracy of the Selective Service registration database, including the accuracy of registrants' addresses, since 1982. But already by 1982, only two years after the first registrations were submitted, the GAO found that 20% to 40% of the registrations on file with the Selective Service System contained obsolete addresses. "Also we estimate that the percentage of outdated addresses at the end of the second through the fifth years following registration would be 32.5, 41.1, 52.8 and 61.6 percent respectively. Furthermore on the basis of Census data for older persons within the draft-eligible ages we estimate that about 75 percent of the addresses provided to the Selective Service at the time of registration would be outdated by the end of draft eligibility." Bernard Rostker, Director of the Selective Service System from 1979-1981 during the attempt to resume draft registration, discussed some of the legal problems that this would cause in the event of a draft in an interview with the Washington Post in December 2017: ROSTKER: The list that they have I doubt could pass the legal definition of a complete and objective list, because it is structurally flawed and Selective Service knows it. CUNNINGHAM: Many young men don't ever actively register for the draft themselves. Their states automatically send their information to the Selective Service when they get a driver's license. But if they move apartments -- or across the country -- the information doesn't necessarily get updated. And what about the men without driver's licenses? Or the ones who live in states that don't automatically register them? ROSTKER: It's a list that I'm sure the courts would throw out immediately because it's not accurate. Obsolete addresses would make it difficult to enforce induction orders, even if the

courts didn't find that the registration list was too inaccurate to provide for due process. Because it would be impossible to prove that registrants knew they were supposed to notify the Selective Service System of changes of address, or to prove that they had received induction notices unless they signed them, registrants could and would safely avoid induction simply by not signing for any certified letters from the Selective Service. They could neither be inducted nor prosecuted unless and until they had been tracked down and notified in person by FBI agents that they would be prosecuted if they did not report for induction. As with registration itself, they could ignore the draft with impunity until then. As for induction notices delivered to registrants' parents, many parents would choose to destroy them rather than forwarding them to their children. Yes, destroying an induction notice, if provable, could itself be a crime. But many parents would, in such a situation, choose to shift the risk of prosecution for violating the draft law from their children to themselves. Whether or not they have registered, the feasibility of any draft or any system of compulsory service depends critically on whether draftees will submit to induction. It is clear from the history of draft registration since 1980 that young men will not comply voluntarily. Is it realistic to assume that women would be more willing to submit to draft registration and/or an actual draft than men have been? Or that health care workers or other older women and men with specialized skills would be more willing to submit? Draft resisters are often accused of being naive and unrealistic. But the naivete is on the part of those who assume that people who have registered with the Selective Service System only as an automatic corollary of obtaining a driver's license, in order to obtain student loans or job training, or to avoid prosecution, would necessarily submit to induction if ordered. Having told young men for decades that, "It's just registration, not a draft," it would be the height of self-delusion to interpret the resulting silence as an indication that there is no opposition to draft registration or the draft. There is currently no national organization the primary focus of which is opposition to the draft or draft registration. But that doesn't mean that there is no opposition, or that there would be no resistance to any effort to expand registration or to resume inductions. The tendency to ignore or minimize the significance of silent noncompliance has been criticized as follows by the political anthropologist and scholar of resistance James C. Scott: "Much of the active political life of subordinate groups has been ignored because it takes place at a level we rarely recognize as political. To emphasize the enormity of what has been, by and large, disregarded, I want to distinguish between the open, declared forms of resistance, which attract most attention, and the disguised, low-profile undeclared resistance... For many of the least privileged minorities and marginalized poor, open political action will hardly capture the bulk of political action... The luxury of relatively safe, open political opposition is rare... So long as we confine our conception of the political to activity that is openly declared we are driven to conclude that subordinate groups essentially lack a political life... To do so is to miss the immense terrain that lies between quiescence and [open] revolt and that, for better or worse, is the political environment of subject classes... Each of the forms of disguised resistance...is the silent partner of a loud form of public resistance. Desertion is quite different from man open mutiny that directly challenges military commanders. It makes no public claims, it issues no manifestos, it is exit rather than voice. And yet, once the extent of desertion becomes known, it constrains the ambitions of commanders, who know they may not be able to count on their conscripts...Quiet, anonymous,...lawbreaking and disobedience may well be the historically preferred mode of political action for...subaltern classes, for whom open defiance is too dangerous." In addition to questions about the military draft and draft registration, this Commission asks, "Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans...feasible?" Leaving aside for a moment the contradiction between "mandatory" and "service", I have to point out that a requirement applicable only to certain age cohorts would be neither "universal" nor applicable to "all Americans". That a program which would likely be age-specific (and, to be more precise, youth specific) can be described as applying to "all" is symptomatic of the profound depths of unconscious ageism in which conscription is rooted. But not all opposition to military conscription is focused solely on its military purposes. Most draft resistance is not a pacifist, and much of it has been motivated by anti-imperialism rather than anti-militarism. There is also opposition to conscription in itself, independent of its use for military purposes, and to the unfairness in its application including

its ageism. Regardless of the age or age range to which such a mandatory requirement might be applied, it would face such widespread resistance as to render it unenforceable and unfeasible. Practical issues of compliance, noncompliance and enforcement are likely to be dispositive of whether any continuation, modification, or expansion of draft registration, or any conscription or compulsory "service" program, will be feasible. Accordingly, I urge this Commission to devote at least one of your current series of panel discussions, and one of your planned later formal hearings, solely to these essential practical issues, and to include panelists and witnesses from within the Resistance. Don't make the same mistake that Congress made when it ignored the evidence before it in 1980 that widespread noncompliance would make draft registration unenforceable, as in fact it did. I would welcome an opportunity to meet with members and/or staff of the Commission, to participate in one of its panels, and/or to testify at one of its formal hearings. The Commission also want to know what the government could do to encourage "service", particularly by young people. Here are some preliminary answers: (1) "Compulsory service" is, by definition, slavery. If you want to encourage any positive definition of service, it must be voluntary, and completely separate from any system of conscription. You cannot have a system that serves both conscription and positive "service". If you are doing something because of the carrot of financial rewards or the stick of threatened prosecution or other punishment, it's servitude, not service. After my conviction of refusal to register for the draft, I was initially sentenced to six months' incarceration, suspended on condition that I perform 2,000 hours of "service". Although my probation officer testified - quite courageously - that she believed that my antiwar and nuclear disarmament work satisfied the conditions of my sentence, the judge later revoked my probation and ordered me locked up because he disagreed with the political statement made by my work. It was a lesson in the relationship between conscription and compulsory "service", and of the politicization of the definition of acceptable "service". (2) "Military service" is, by definition, service to the cause of war. If you want to encourage any non-warlike notion of "service", you need to separate it completely from military recruiting, military training, or incentives for military enlistment. (3) People can best "serve" by making their own choices. "Service" should not be limited to options approved by the government for nonprofit status. We need youth leadership to save us form the threats of nuclear and climate-change calamities that we older people have created. We need to allow young people to lead, not force them to follow. Accepting youth leadership means allowing young people to make choices that older people would not have identified for them. (4) The greatest limitation on the ability to "serve", especially for young people, is student debt that forces people to seek higher-paying jobs. This is the new form of the "channeling" of young people's choices by the Selective Service System. The best way to enable more people to "serve" is to free them from student and vocational-training debt by recognizing education as a human right and shifting funding for education and job training from loans to grants.

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These recommendations are based on practicalities, not political opinions, informed by intimate personal experience in, and intimate familiarity with the documentary record of, the history of compliance with and enforcement of draft registration since 1980. Beginning with the resumption of the draft registration in 1980, and continuing through the U.S. proxy war in Afghanistan in the 1980s and the U.S. invasions of Kuwait and Iraq in 1991, I served as an (unpaid) organizer with the National Resistance Committee as an (unpaid) co-editor of Resistance News, the national journal of resistance to draft registration. In 1983-1984, I served 4 1/2 months in the custody of the U.S. Attorney General, most of that time in a Federal Prison Camp, for my willful refusal to submit to registration with the Selective Service System, and for organizing and encouraging resistance to draft registration. Today, I serve as (unpaid) editor and maintainer of Resisters.info, a Web site about the draft, draft registration, draft resistance, and health care workers and women and the draft. There is no other service I have done in my life of which I am more proud. When President Carter proposed to reinstate draft registration in 1980, he described it as a response to Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. But if the the U.S. had sent draftees my age to Afghanistan in the 1980s, which side would we have been fighting on? It should not be forgotten that when draft registration was reinstated, the U.S. was arming and funding the warlords and "mujahideen" who were then fighting against the USSR, and would later turn against the U.S. The U.S. government put me in prison for refusing to agree to fight on the side of the people who would later become the Taliban and Al Qaeda! It's no wonder that people of my generation and after have no faith in the ability of the U.S. government to decide for us in which wars, or on which (if any) side, we should fight. But it's not necessary for this Commission, the Congress, or the President to agree with or even to understand the reasons why some people resist the draft and draft registration to assess whether a draft would be feasible - and to conclude, on the evidence, that it would not. Before Congress reinstated Presidential authority to order draft registration in 1980, Congress received clear and explicit warning, from the most knowledgeable of experts, as to exactly what would happen, and in the event did, if and when it tried to resume registration. On 14 April 1980, while legislation to reinstate presidential authority for draft registration and to bring the Selective Service System back from "deep standby" was pending in Congress, the Subcommittee on Courts, Civil Liberties, and the Administration of Justice of the House Committee on the Judiciary held the first of a series of hearing on, "The Civil Liberties and Administration of Justice Implications of Draft Registration."</p>
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The hearing opened with a prescient statement by Curtis W. Tarr, who had been the Director of the Selective Service System from 1970-1972: "My judgement is that in this national climate, offenders would constitute a significant portion of the total pool. If a person were apprehended for failure to obey the law, the next problem would be prosecution... I doubt whether U.S. Attorneys or Federal Judges would attempt to convict young people in numbers that would ensure reasonable compliance with the law. Reacting to the laxity, counselors would soon advise young people not to register since the penalty would be inconsequential in the unlikely event that the offender were caught. Once registration has taken place, then records must be maintained. Enforcing a requirement to notify selective service of a changed address would be even more difficult than enforcing the duty to register. Again, courts would not wish to treat this failure as a serious transgression, a further encouragement to non-compliance. Thus I foresee the possibility of evasion by large numbers that would overwhelm the agencies for law enforcement and judiciary." At the same series of hearings, the Subcommittee heard testimony from opponents of draft registration who described plans and preparations for organized resistance to draft registration. They introduced into the hearing record the founding "Call for Resistance" to draft registration which had been issued earlier that year by the National Resistance Committee, the organization with which I was then working, and which had been distributed at the national "Mobilization Against the Draft" marches against draft registration by tens of thousands of people in Washington, DC, and San Francisco, CA, on 22 March 1980. Congress and the President ignored Dr. Tarr's warning, but noncompliance with the registration and change of address notification requirements, and the eventual unwillingness of the Department of Justice to continue prosecutions that were failing to deter widespread noncompliance, unfolded exactly as Dr. Tarr had predicted. This Commission, and the Congress and President who will consider it recommendations, should not make the same mistake that Congress and the President made in 1980 of failing to look backward at history and forward to the foreseeable future to assess, realistically, the feasibility of enforcing draft registration and a draft based on it. When men born in 1960, 1961, and 1962 were ordered to register at Post Offices during mass registration weeks in 1980 and 1981, far more of us stayed home than even the most optimistic supporters of draft resistance had hoped for. Over the next year, widespread publicity about the extent of noncompliance created an increasing crisis of public legitimacy for draft registration and the Selective Service System. In July 1982, less than a month after the first indictment for violating the new draft registration requirement, Justice Department officials were called before the same Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee to answer questions about whether or how they planned to enforce draft registration in the face of the widespread noncompliance. David J. Kline, Senior attorney with the General Litigation and Legal Advice Section of the Criminal Division, and Lawrence Lippe, Chief of the General Litigation and Legal Advice Section, appeared before the House Subcommittee on behalf of the Department of Justice. Even when specifically asked, they declined to tell Congress what prosecution policy had been decided on by the Department of Justice or what instructions had been given to U.S. Attorneys. But internal Department of Justice documents describing and discussing those policies were disclosed to indicted nonregistrants a few months later during pretrial discovery. The enforcement strategy adopted by the Department of Justice was explained in a memo drafted by Kline and sent over Lippe's signature to D. Lowell Jensen, Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division: "The total number of nonregistrants will doubtless remain very high when measured against the Department's prosecutive resources. However, an initial round of well publicized, successful prosecutions should have a dramatic effect in further reducing the number of non-registrants...We first would have to accept the simple fact that, although some persons will be prosecuted, there will be others who are neither registered nor prosecuted. Nevertheless, such a policy, geared to present funding levels, might well yield sufficient general deterrence so that the Selective Service system receives sufficient registrations to maintain the credibility of the system." Kline's plan was approved, and he instructed all U.S. Attorneys accordingly: "We request that United States Attorneys assign any non-registration matters in their districts to experienced Assistant United States Attorneys and ensure that such matters are handled on a priority basis. If the non-registration matters pending

within your district can be sufficiently investigated within a short period of time, indictments should be sought before the end of June [1982]." But prosecutions of selected nonregistrants failed to "yield sufficient general deterrence so that the Selective Service system receives sufficient registrations to maintain the credibility of the system." Compliance declined following the prosecutions, for at least three reasons: First, the overwhelming majority of U.S. Attorneys to whom nonregistration cases were referred ignored their instructions from Washington and chose not to seek indictments - exactly as former Selective Service Director Tarr had predicted to Congress in 1980. Hundreds of cases of nonregistrants, possibly as many as 2,000 were referred to U.S. Attorneys between 1980 and 1988, when prosecutions were suspended. Only 20 of these cases - perhaps as little as 1% of the total - led to indictments. These were easy cases. Almost all of the nonregistration cases referred to U.S. Attorneys were of people who had informed the government of our refusal to register, usually by writing to the Selective Service or other officials, and/or who had publicized our refusal. Some young men undoubtedly took the opportunity to register without penalty once they were visited by the FBI and told that if they didn't register, they might be indicted. But many, probably at least several hundred, still refused to register. In the overwhelming majority of these cases, U.S. Attorneys exercised their discretion not to prosecute. Second, the prosecutions of self-identified nonregistrants did nothing to intimidate the much larger numbers who had quietly ignored registration. The Supreme Court upheld the legality of selecting nonregistrants for prosecution on the basis of whether we had spoken out about our resistance, on the theory that locking up the "most vocal" nonregistrants would have the greatest deterrent effect on others. Bu that theory was proven wrong. Nonregistrants weren't fools. They got the message, loud and clear, that there was safety in silence as well as safety in numbers, and little or no risk of prosecution unless they chose to single themselves out in the most flagrant possible ways. The selective prosecutions and the publicity about selective prosecution, reassured and encouraged quiet nonregistrants. Third, the government had to prove actual knowledge of the requirement to register. That ensured that nonregistrants would get a "last chance" to register after being given personal notice of their duty to register, and could wait to register until then with impunity. In the one case in which the government picked out and indicted a nonregistrant who hadn't publicized or informed the government about his knowledge of the registration requirement, the prosecutor had to drop the charges in embarrassment when it became clear that the man indicted hadn't known that he was required to register. In the one case of a vocal nonregistrant who chose not to concede the element of knowledge and willfulness at trial, the conviction was eventually overturned because the trial judge had failed to instruct the jury adequately about the government's burden of proving actual knowledge of the registration requirement. To the extent that they heard about these cases, men subject to draft registration learned that if they were singled out for possible prosecution, they would have to be offered a "last chance" to register without penalty after they were personally advised of their legal obligation to register. Unless and until they were given such a "final warning" in person by the FBI, they could quietly ignore registration without incurring any real risk of prosecution. It became clear that for someone who wanted neither to be drafted nor to be jailed, the safest course of action was, as it still is today, to quietly ignore registration. In 1988, the Department of Justice threw in the towel and suspended prosecutions of nonregistrants - a suspension that has continued to this day, 30 years later. The 1988 decision to suspend prosecutions was publicly disclosed by a Selective Selective System spokesperson in a 2016 interview with U.S. News & World Report: "In the late '80s the Justice Department discontinued prosecutions. Dick Flahavan, a spokesman for the Selective Service who was with the agency at the time, recalls the Justice Department 'decided that since there was no draft and there was high compliance, there are limited resources and the FBI's time would be better spent chasing white collar crime than some Mennonite kid through Pennsylvania. We said, "Fine, we understand," and that's why it ended in '88,' he says. 'The agency [Selective Service System] did agree to what the Justice Department proposed, a suspension of prosecutions [during peace time]. Since they did the prosecutions we didn't have much leverage anyways...' Flahavan says the Selective Service had hoped for a much stronger approach from federal prosecutors, but was rebuffed... If someone registered just before trial, the prosecution would be

dropped Flahavan notes, making the pursuit of resisters 'really a losing proposition for the feds" and often "a big waste of time.' In 1987 a Justice Department spokesman told the New York Times it was preparing a policy through which the Selective Service System would periodically refer 200 names for prosecution. But that never happened. I think they were happy to walk away from it and we understand why,' Flahavan says. 'It was very labor intensive and very little came of it, although the government won [in the sense that most of the 20 men indicted were convicted].'" Any plan to continue draft registration, expand it to women and/or to individuals with specified skills, and/or use it as the basis for a draft or compulsory "service" would either have to include a plausible plan for enforcement of registration or acknowledge that individuals can opt out of registration without risk of prosecution, as long as they do so quietly. But nonregistration is only the tip of the iceberg of noncompliance with draft registration. Nonregistration is neither the most common form of noncompliance with draft registration, the most difficult to enforce, nor the most significant in the effect it would have on any attempt to use the current registration database as the basis for a draft. Most young men, although far from all (and far fewer than is generally assumed), register with the Selective Service System at some time, at some address. Most often this is either because they live in a state that links draft registration to obtaining a drivers license or to other state programs, because they are seeking Federal financial aid or loan guarantee for education or job training, or because draft registration is a condition of U.S. residency or naturalization as a U.S. citizen. It's important to note, however, that a substantial portion of the U.S. populations lives in states including California where there is no linkage of draft registration to any state program. Use of drivers' license funds for draft registration or other purposes unrelated to motor vehicle operations would violate California's state Constitution, and the California legislature has voted repeatedly against bills to link drivers' licenses to draft registration. It's also important to recognize that if the only reason people have registered with the Selective Service System is in order to obtain a drivers' license or a student loan, the fact that they are registered says nothing about whether they would be willing to be drafted. But the draft registration is a continuing obligation, not a once-in-a-lifetime act. All male U.S. citizens or residents are required to notify the Selective Service System each time they change their residence until they reach their 26th birthday. Compliance with this requirement to notify the Selective Service System of changes of address is extremely low. Most men subject to draft registration have moved without notifying the Selective Service System. Most addresses on file with the Selective Service System are obsolete. If a draft were to be conducted based on the current registration database, most induction notices would either wind up in the dead letter office, or would be delivered to former addresses, most likely parents' addresses at which registrants lived when they were 18. There has been no independent audit of the accuracy of the Selective Service registration database, including the accuracy of registrants' addresses, since 1982. But already by 1982, only two years after the first registrations were submitted, the GAO found that 20% to 40% of the registrations on file with the Selective Service System contained obsolete addresses. "Also we estimate that the percentage of outdated addresses at the end of the second through the fifth years following registration would be 32.5, 41.1, 52.8 and 61.6 percent respectively. Furthermore on the basis of Census data for older persons within the draft-eligible ages we estimate that about 75 percent of the addresses provided to the Selective Service at the time of registration would be outdated by the end of draft eligibility." Bernard Rostker, Director of the Selective Service System from 1979-1981 during the attempt to resume draft registration, discussed some of the legal problems that this would cause in the event of a draft in an interview with the Washington Post in December 2017: ROSTKER: The list that they have I doubt could pass the legal definition of a complete and objective list, because it is structurally flawed and Selective Service knows it. CUNNINGHAM: Many young men don't ever actively register for the draft themselves. Their states automatically send their information to the Selective Service when they get a driver's license. But if they move apartments -- or across the country -- the information doesn't necessarily get updated. And what about the men without driver's licenses? Or the ones who live in states that don't automatically register them? ROSTKER: It's a list that I'm sure the courts would throw out immediately because it's not accurate. Obsolete addresses would make it difficult to enforce induction orders, even if the

courts didn't find that the registration list was too inaccurate to provide for due process. Because it would be impossible to prove that registrants knew they were supposed to notify the Selective Service System of changes of address, or to prove that they had received induction notices unless they signed them, registrants could and would safely avoid induction simply by not signing for any certified letters from the Selective Service. They could neither be inducted nor prosecuted unless and until they had been tracked down and notified in person by FBI agents that they would be prosecuted if they did not report for induction. As with registration itself, they could ignore the draft with impunity until then. As for induction notices delivered to registrants' parents, many parents would choose to destroy them rather than forwarding them to their children. Yes, destroying an induction notice, if provable, could itself be a crime. But many parents would, in such a situation, choose to shift the risk of prosecution for violating the draft law from their children to themselves. Whether or not they have registered, the feasibility of any draft or any system of compulsory service depends critically on whether draftees will submit to induction. It is clear from the history of draft registration since 1980 that young men will not comply voluntarily. Is it realistic to assume that women would be more willing to submit to draft registration and/or an actual draft than men have been? Or that health care workers or other older women and men with specialized skills would be more willing to submit? Draft resisters are often accused of being naive and unrealistic. But the naivete is on the part of those who assume that people who have registered with the Selective Service System only as an automatic corollary of obtaining a driver's license, in order to obtain student loans or job training, or to avoid prosecution, would necessarily submit to induction if ordered. Having told young men for decades that, "It's just registration, not a draft," it would be the height of self-delusion to interpret the resulting silence as an indication that there is no opposition to draft registration or the draft. There is currently no national organization the primary focus of which is opposition to the draft or draft registration. But that doesn't mean that there is no opposition, or that there would be no resistance to any effort to expand registration or to resume inductions. The tendency to ignore or minimize the significance of silent noncompliance has been criticized as follows by the political anthropologist and scholar of resistance James C. Scott: "Much of the active political life of subordinate groups has been ignored because it takes place at a level we rarely recognize as political. To emphasize the enormity of what has been, by and large, disregarded, I want to distinguish between the open, declared forms of resistance, which attract most attention, and the disguised, low-profile undeclared resistance... For many of the least privileged minorities and marginalized poor, open political action will hardly capture the bulk of political action... The luxury of relatively safe, open political opposition is rare... So long as we confine our conception of the political to activity that is openly declared we are driven to conclude that subordinate groups essentially lack a political life... To do so is to miss the immense terrain that lies between quiescence and [open] revolt and that, for better or worse, is the political environment of subject classes... Each of the forms of disguised resistance...is the silent partner of a loud form of public resistance. Desertion is quite different from man open mutiny that directly challenges military commanders. It makes no public claims, it issues no manifestos, it is exit rather than voice. And yet, once the extent of desertion becomes known, it constrains the ambitions of commanders, who know they may not be able to count on their conscripts...Quiet, anonymous,...lawbreaking and disobedience may well be the historically preferred mode of political action for...subaltern classes, for whom open defiance is too dangerous." In addition to questions about the military draft and draft registration, this Commission asks, "Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans...feasible?" Leaving aside for a moment the contradiction between "mandatory" and "service", I have to point out that a requirement applicable only to certain age cohorts would be neither "universal" nor applicable to "all Americans". That a program which would likely be age-specific (and, to be more precise, youth specific) can be described as applying to "all" is symptomatic of the profound depths of unconscious ageism in which conscription is rooted. But not all opposition to military conscription is focused solely on its military purposes. Most draft resistance is not a pacifist, and much of it has been motivated by anti-imperialism rather than anti-militarism. There is also opposition to conscription in itself, independent of its use for military purposes, and to the unfairness in its application including

its ageism. Regardless of the age or age range to which such a mandatory requirement might be applied, it would face such widespread resistance as to render it unenforceable and unfeasible. Practical issues of compliance, noncompliance and enforcement are likely to be dispositive of whether any continuation, modification, or expansion of draft registration, or any conscription or compulsory "service" program, will be feasible. Accordingly, I urge this Commission to devote at least one of your current series of panel discussions, and one of your planned later formal hearings, solely to these essential practical issues, and to include panelists and witnesses from within the Resistance. Don't make the same mistake that Congress made when it ignored the evidence before it in 1980 that widespread noncompliance would make draft registration unenforceable, as in fact it did. I would welcome an opportunity to meet with members and/or staff of the Commission, to participate in one of its panels, and/or to testify at one of its formal hearings. The Commission also want to know what the government could do to encourage "service", particularly by young people. Here are some preliminary answers: (1) "Compulsory service" is, by definition, slavery. If you want to encourage any positive definition of service, it must be voluntary, and completely separate from any system of conscription. You cannot have a system that serves both conscription and positive "service". If you are doing something because of the carrot of financial rewards or the stick of threatened prosecution or other punishment, it's servitude, not service. After my conviction of refusal to register for the draft, I was initially sentenced to six months' incarceration, suspended on condition that I perform 2,000 hours of "service". Although my probation officer testified - quite courageously - that she believed that my antiwar and nuclear disarmament work satisfied the conditions of my sentence, the judge later revoked my probation and ordered me locked up because he disagreed with the political statement made by my work. It was a lesson in the relationship between conscription and compulsory "service", and of the politicization of the definition of acceptable "service". (2) "Military service" is, by definition, service to the cause of war. If you want to encourage any non-warlike notion of "service", you need to separate it completely from military recruiting, military training, or incentives for military enlistment. (3) People can best "serve" by making their own choices. "Service" should not be limited to options approved by the government for nonprofit status. We need youth leadership to save us from the threats of nuclear and climate-change calamities that we older people have created. We need to allow young people to lead, not force them to follow. Accepting youth leadership means allowing young people to make choices that older people would not have identified for them. (4) The greatest limitation on the ability to "serve", especially for young people, is student debt that forces people to seek higher-paying jobs. This is the new form of the "channeling" of young people's choices by the Selective Service System. The best way to enable more people to "serve" is to free them from student and vocational-training debt by recognizing education as a human right and shifting funding for education and job training from loans to grants. Congress is now debating amendments to a pending defense bill to either extend Selective Service System registration to women or end it entirely. Congress should drop this costly and inevitably futile attempt to extend draft registration to women and, instead, end the draft registration altogether. The debate was prompted by the change in policy that allows women in combat. If all combat assignments are open to women, then it follows that there is no longer a basis in military policy for requiring men but not women to register for the draft. If Congress does nothing, pending court cases are likely to produce a ruling that the men-only draft registration requirement is unconstitutional. Those who believe in treating women and men equally include those who would register both men and women for the draft and those who wouldn't require anyone to register. Missing from this debate has been whether it will even be possible to get women to register. President Jimmy Carter's proposal to reinstate draft registration in 1980, after a five-year hiatus, initially included men and women. Some of the strongest opposition came from women. The National Resistance Committee was founded at the Women's Building in San Francisco within weeks of Carter's announcement. Carter's rationale for bringing back draft registration was to prepare for U.S. intervention in Afghanistan in support of the fighters who were then referred to as "mujahedeen," and who later became the Taliban and al Qaeda. (The U.S. government put me in prison in 1983-1984 for refusing to agree to fight on the side of the Taliban and al Qaeda.)

In the early 1980s, the government tried to scare young men into registering by prosecuting a handful of vocal nonregistrants. But the show trials backfired. They called attention to the resistance and made clear that there was safety in numbers. Enforcement of draft registration was suspended in 1988, and never resumed. Young men today have to register in order to be eligible for student aid and some other government programs, but there's no attempt to verify their addresses. The only audit of Selective Service, in 1982, found that 20 to 40 percent of addresses on file already were outdated. Noncompliance has made registration unenforceable and the registration database useless as the basis for a fair or inclusive draft. Any realistic budget for the expansion of draft registration to women would need to include the cost to track down, prosecute and imprison those who resist. Young women have the same reasons as young men to oppose draft registration, and will undoubtedly have other reasons of their own. A petition to end draft registration entirely, started last month by a draft-age San Francisco woman, Julie Mastrine, got more than 10,000 signatures in its first week. The petition quotes the young feminist writer Lucy Steigerwald, "You don't stop the runaway truck of U.S. foreign policy by throwing a man in front of it, and you definitely don't stop it by throwing a man and a woman, just to make things equal."

The federal government doesn't do well at acknowledging that its power is limited by the willingness of the people to carry out its orders. But draft registration has failed. The only realistic choice is to end it.

4/19/18 Thank you for the opportunity to provide my personal comments to the Commission on the subject of military service, national and public service. I will address each of these elements. First some background. I am a veteran, having served as a commissioned line officer in the Navy during the Vietnam war. I entered in 1968, via Navy Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island, before the establishment of the lottery system. My motivation at that time was not out of a sense of duty to serve in the military at all, given that the Vietnam war was never a war of national security or otherwise in the national interest. I only entered the Navy to avoid being drafted into ground troops where I would directly be required to kill others, and possibly be killed. I admit that my serving as a Naval officer was in part an act of self preservation, a probability judgement. I did survive where more than 50,000 others from our country did not, and countless others were injured, physically and mentally; and millions of Vietnamese were killed in an unnecessary war. At the time I was also accepted into the Peace Corps, but it did not ensure that I would not be subsequently drafted into military service. I must also state that every conflict and war that the USA has engaged in since Vietnam and even before also fail the test of being necessary wars of national security purpose. And I will note that none of these military actions, including my service during the Vietnam war have ever been formally approved by the U.S. Congress as required by our Constitution. Therefore, all wars since World War II have been totally illegal. And individuals who have served, including me, whether by draft or by voluntary service ave been complicit in violating our most fundamental laws of this country, and often in violation of numerous international laws and treaties. That simply must stop. The military of the United States is intended to be for the defense of our country and the security of its people, as stated in the U.S. Constitution. In fact, there was never an intent by our founding fathers who wrote our Constitution to have a standing army. The only standing military force authorized by our Constitution is a naval force. The other branches of the military, army, air force, marines are only allowed to exist for a maximum period of two years, not be perpetual. But our Constitution has been grossly corrupted by other motivations, heavily for the benefit of the corporations that derive their profits from perpetually preparing for and executing wars and interventions outside of our borders. And our Congress has likewise been corrupted to serve those corporate interests by dark money and unlimited campaign financing and perks from their personal political positions. Beyond this illegality of the U.S.A. wars and "conflicts", history proves that wars and use of violence and forcing others to submit to suppression by exercise of power is ineffective in almost all situations. Peaceful means of resolving conflicts among parties and nations do work, but are rarely given the opportunity to occur. Finding security is only achieved in its fullest sense when parties on all sides of disagreement and conflict can feel secure, and actually be secure. Security is not a one way street in which one side wins and the other sides submit or are suppressed. Our Constitution, as amended, provides for freedom on religion and its free exercise. A religion need not be a formal personal membership in any particular recognized faith instituion... but is a personal belief that guides one's ethical and moral actions in life. For many, including me, this includes a belief that using violence against other people or nations should never occur, and is a personal and religious principle. I affiliate with the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) which I and that faith group have as a founding principle the testimony of peace and harmony. Participating in military adventures and interventions, and bloody wars are in violation of that testimony. Following are my answers to some of the questions posed by the Commission:(1) Is a military draft necessary to U.S. national security? My answer is a definite no. The military draft violates personal freedoms guaranteed by our Constitution, as well as being in violation of the illegality of a standing army. (2) Are modifications to the Selective Service System needed? Yes, modifications are needed. The Selective Service System should be dismantled. And in particular the mandatory registration of age eligible persons should be abandoned. No critical skills or professions should be forced into compulsory service, military or otherwise. No registration should be extended to include mandatory registration of females. In association with the elimination of military draft registration, all nationa, state and local laws and regulations associated with denying public services to individuals who do not register must be eliminated. These are unject penalties. This would include involuntary registration that happens in Colorado when a person applies for a state issued drivers license or ID card.

Public benefits should not be tied to draft registration, such as obtaining in-state tuition at colleges, or obtaining federal or state assistance loans for education, or for any other public service such as access to health care, etc. If the decision is made to retain the Selective Service System, a provision for individuals to initially register as a conscientious objector must be included, easily done at time of registration. Since many individuals currently enter the military because of reality or perception that they cannot find employment elsewhere (sometimes called the "poverty draft"), the ability to voluntarily leave the military must be provided through a rapid and easy process, including decisions of conscience objection arrived at by individuals after joining and during both active duty and reserve duty status. Many individuals will not achieve this clarity that doing violence against others is wrong until faced with the actual order to do so. (3) How can the USA increase participation in military, national and public service for critical skills for national security and other public service to the nation? Military service should never be a mandatory requirement of individuals, for reasons noted previously. It should only be voluntary, solely by personal freedom of choice, never compulsory, and only for providing true security under the principles of ensuring mutual security for all parties in any conflict. The military can improve participation by ensuring that the USA does not enter into foreign and domestic wars and interventions, such as the history of every undeclared war and act of violence since WW-II. The corruption of the military by its vast and limitless budgets is diverting the ability of our nation to build true security by making people secure both at home and by service to the disadvantaged people of the world. The military recruitment process should not include legal access to young people of draft age or below in our nation's primary and secondary schools, as is now mandated under the "no child left behind act". That activity is conducted using enticements by recruiters who routinely make all kinds of promises that are not, cannot be kept once enlistment contracts are read in the fine print and in duty assignments. This even includes promises to non-citizen residents who are promised a pathway to citizenship, which has recently been rescinded, breaking those promises. Individuals must only sign up on their own volition and out of their own personal interest. Public service, interpreted to mean service in other components of government, is likewise a personal freedom of choice, and must not ever be made compulsory. I once was a federal government employee, the U.S. EPA, but left that agency when the job ceased to be professionally challenging, and began to fail in its legal mission, and even later became corrupted by corporate influence/infiltration to degrade its public service function of serving to protect the public health and safety of people and to the environment. The same thing has happened to numerous government agencies, examples being USDA, FDA, agencies of Dept of Interior, HHS, Department of State, Dept of Commerce, etc. Today's elected government leadership has further corrupted the EPA and so many agencies by destroying their scientific integrity and its credibility and the ability to do their intended missions. Today's administration in particular is damaging the sense and even desire to become a public servant, by its demeaning of public employees, even to the extent of silencing demoting, and otherwise sanctioning government employees who speak out with truths, and who seek to restore the integrity and trust within the agencies and departments. Individual employees in government must understand that they will be trusted, will be supported to conduct their jobs with honor, not discredit and even fired for their integrity and ethical principles. Finally, government's purpose to serve the public must be restored. Our democracy of the people must be restored. The present capture of government by special and corporate interest must come to an end. Then public service can once again be an honorable path for individuals to enter. National Service - National service is a very good objective. I personally support the concept that citizens and legal residents of our nation should be encouraged to engage in national service. That can be achieved through voluntary public service in government, or by innumerable other paths in private lives, including for-profit businesses, non-profit organizations, by participating in elected public offices, and even in solely personal endeavors to help others, or even by leading exemplary lives in their chosen paths. For example, our nation is in great need of a new cadre of individuals, actually millions of people, serving the public by providing safe, non-toxic foods to meet the daily needs of our population. Other examples include engaging in building the security of people in our own country and around the world, especially in the many countries where

our nation has instead imposed military intervention and aggression, either directly or by providing military arms to other countries that suppress their own people and neighbors (numerous examples continue on all continents). The better path and only path that will be successful for peace and security is through aid provision of real human and environmental needs: health care, support in providing clear air and water, assistance with food security, service to liberate women and ethnically and racially oppressed peoples, and in particular working diligently to disengage from climate disruption/damaging fossil fuel dependencies, replacing this world security threat by truly responsible and sustainable energy, transportation, agriculture and construction. Several of the other questions posed by the Commission for public comment input are embodied in my comments provided above. Overall, the way to peace and security is by sharing it equitably among all parties. A world of dominating nations and oppressed nations will not be secure for either side. Only by practicing peace, equality, honoring of community, fully supporting integrity, and pursuing fully sustainability of our environment can we all become secure and live our lives to the fullest human potential.

4/19/18	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide my personal comments to the Commission on the subject of military service, national and public service. I will address each of these elements. First some background. I am a veteran, having served as a commissioned line officer in the Navy during the Vietnam war. I entered in 1968, via Navy Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island, before the establishment of the lottery system. My motivation at that time was not out of a sense of duty to serve in the military at all, given that the Vietnam war was never a war of national security or otherwise in the national interest. I only entered the Navy to avoid being drafted into ground troops where I would directly be required to kill others, and possibly be killed. I admit that my serving as a Naval officer was in part an act of self preservation, a probability judgement. I did survive where more than 50,000 others from our country did not, and countless others were injured, physically and mentally; and millions of Vietnamese were killed in an unnecessary war. At the time I was also accepted into the Peace Corps, but it did not ensure that I would not be subsequently drafted into military service. I must also state that every conflict and war that the USA has engaged in since Vietnam and even before also fail the test of being necessary wars of national security purpose. And I will note that none of these military actions, including my service during the Vietnam war have ever been formally approved by the U.S. Congress as required by our Constitution. Therefore, all wars since World War II have been totally illegal. And individuals who have served, including me, whether by draft or by voluntary service ave been complicit in violating our most fundamental laws of this country, and often in violation of numerous international laws and treaties. That simply must stop. The military of the United States is intended to be for the defense of our country and the security of its people, as stated in the U.S. Constitution. In fact, there was never an intent by our founding fathers who wrote our Constitution to have a standing army. The only standing military force authorized by our Constitution is a naval force. The other branches of the military, army, air force, marines are only allowed to exist for a maximum period of two years, not be perpetual. But our Constitution has been grossly corrupted by other motivations, heavily for the benefit of the corporations that derive their profits from perpetually preparing for and executing wars and interventions outside of our borders. And our Congress has likewise been corrupted to serve those corporate interests by dark money and unlimited campaign financing and perks from their personal political positions. Beyond this illegality of the U.S.A. wars and "conflicts", history proves that wars and use of violence and forcing others to submit to suppression by exercise of power is ineffective in almost all situations. Peaceful means of resolving conflicts among parties and nations do work, but are rarely given the opportunity to occur. Finding security is only achieved in its fullest sense when parties on all sides of disagreement and conflict can feel secure, and actually be secure. Security is not a one way street in which one side wins and the other sides submit or are suppressed. Our Constitution, as amended, provides for freedom on religion and its free exercise. A religion need not be a formal personal membership in any particular recognized faith instituion... but is a personal belief that guides one's ethical and moral actions in life. For many, including me, this includes a belief that using violence against other people or nations should never occur, and is a personal and religious principle. I affiliate with the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) which I and that faith group have as a founding principle the testimony of peace and harmony. Participating in military adventures and interventions, and bloody wars are in violation of that testimony. Following are my answers to some of the questions posed by the Commission:(1) Is a military draft necessary to U.S. national security? My answer is a definite no. The military draft violates personal freedoms guaranteed by our Constitution, as well as being in violation of the illegality of a standing army. (2) Are modifications to the Selective Service System needed? Yes, modifications are needed. The Selective Service System should be dismantled. And in particular the mandatory registration of age eligible persons should be abandoned. No critical skills or professions should be forced into compulsory service, military or otherwise. No registration should be extended to include mandatory registration of females. In association with the elimination of military draft registration, all nationa, state and local laws and regulations associated with denying public services to individuals who do not register must be eliminated. These are unject penalties. This would include involuntary registration that happens in Colorado when a person applies for a state issued drivers license or ID card.</p>
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Public benefits should not be tied to draft registration, such as obtaining in-state tuition at colleges, or obtaining federal or state assistance loans for education, or for any other public service such as access to health care, etc. If the decision is made to retain the Selective Service System, a provision for individuals to initially register as a conscientious objector must be included, easily done at time of registration. Since many individuals currently enter the military because of reality or perception that they cannot find employment elsewhere (sometimes called the "poverty draft"), the ability to voluntarily leave the military must be provided through a rapid and easy process, including decisions of conscience objection arrived at by individuals after joining and during both active duty and reserve duty status. Many individuals will not achieve this clarity that doing violence against others is wrong until faced with the actual order to do so. (3) How can the USA increase participation in military, national and public service for critical skills for national security and other public service to the nation? Military service should never be a mandatory requirement of individuals, for reasons noted previously. It should only be voluntary, solely by personal freedom of choice, never compulsory, and only for providing true security under the principles of ensuring mutual security for all parties in any conflict. The military can improve participation by ensuring that the USA does not enter into foreign and domestic wars and interventions, such as the history of every undeclared war and act of violence since WW-II. The corruption of the military by its vast and limitless budgets is diverting the ability of our nation to build true security by making people secure both at home and by service to the disadvantaged people of the world. The military recruitment process should not include legal access to young people of draft age or below in our nation's primary and secondary schools, as is now mandated under the "no child left behind act". That activity is conducted using enticements by recruiters who routinely make all kinds of promises that are not, cannot be kept once enlistment contracts are read in the fine print and in duty assignments. This even includes promises to non-citizen residents who are promised a pathway to citizenship, which has recently been rescinded, breaking those promises. Individuals must only sign up on their own volition and out of their own personal interest. Public service, interpreted to mean service in other components of government, is likewise a personal freedom of choice, and must not ever be made compulsory. I once was a federal government employee, the U.S. EPA, but left that agency when the job ceased to be professionally challenging, and began to fail in its legal mission, and even later became corrupted by corporate influence/infiltration to degrade its public service function of serving to protect the public health and safety of people and to the environment. The same thing has happened to numerous government agencies, examples being USDA, FDA, agencies of Dept of Interior, HHS, Department of State, Dept of Commerce, etc. Today's elected government leadership has further corrupted the EPA and so many agencies by destroying their scientific integrity and its credibility and the ability to do their intended missions. Today's administration in particular is damaging the sense and even desire to become a public servant, by its demeaning of public employees, even to the extent of silencing demoting, and otherwise sanctioning government employees who speak out with truths, and who seek to restore the integrity and trust within the agencies and departments. Individual employees in government must understand that they will be trusted, will be supported to conduct their jobs with honor, not discredit and even fired for their integrity and ethical principles. Finally, government's purpose to serve the public must be restored. Our democracy of the people must be restored. The present capture of government by special and corporate interest must come to an end. Then public service can once again be an honorable path for individuals to enter. National Service - National service is a very good objective. I personally support the concept that citizens and legal residents of our nation should be encouraged to engage in national service. That can be achieved through voluntary public service in government, or by innumerable other paths in private lives, including for-profit businesses, non-profit organizations, by participating in elected public offices, and even in solely personal endeavors to help others, or even by leading exemplary lives in their chosen paths. For example, our nation is in great need of a new cadre of individuals, actually millions of people, serving the public by providing safe, non-toxic foods to meet the daily needs of our population. Other examples include engaging in building the security of people in our own country and around the world, especially in the many countries where

	<p>our nation has instead imposed military intervention and aggression, either directly or by providing military arms to other countries that suppress their own people and neighbors (numerous examples continue on all continents). The better path and only path that will be successful for peace and security is through aid provision of real human and environmental needs: health care, support in providing clear air and water, assistance with food security, service to liberate women and ethnically and racially oppressed peoples, and in particular working diligently to disengage from climate disruption/damaging fossil fuel dependencies, replacing this world security threat by truly responsible and sustainable energy, transportation, agriculture and consctruction. Several of the other questions posed by the Commission for public comment input are embodied in my comments provided above. Overall, the way to peace and security is by sharing it equitably among all parties. A world of dominating nations and oppressed nations will not be secure for either side. Only by practicing peace, equality, honoring of community, fully supporting integrity, and pursuing fully sustainability of our environment can we all become secure and live our lives to the fullest human potential.</p>
4/19/18	I think this system is outdated and unnecessary
4/19/18	Dear Commissioners. Thank you for asking for input. I strongly urge you to stop the draft for military service and replace it with a draft for national service of a non-violent kind; e.g. forestry service, Peace Corps, Americorps, teaching in low-income racial minority school districts, etc. Our youth can learn much while providing important services to our nation non-violently. Yours sincerely

4/19/18	I consider the Selective service outdated, especially since it is limited to men. It is no longer a necessary component of US national security, but if it is preserved, there should be the option to register as a conscientious objector and thus to be able to serve in civil society. There could be a mandatory year for all, either after high school or later in life, to serve in civil society or the military. The barriers to military service may include being forced to serve in undeclared, unconstitutional military actions, that have not been voted on by Congress, and the ensuing loss of legitimacy. The US is engaged in a number of undeclared wars, including Syria, Yemen, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq are ongoing. Other barriers might include reduced educational opportunities, the risk of returning from the battlefield with injuries, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and moral injury. Rampant sexual assault and the difficulty to prosecute perpetrators of assault add barriers especially for women. Veterans who suffer from PTSD and moral injury do often not receive any medical help or counseling needed to put their lives back together. The US has a larger military budget than the next eight countries combined (China, Russia, Saudi Arabia being the next three). This is excessive. It is obvious that other priorities suffer as a consequence: skyrocketing prices for good education and health care are just two examples. As a society, we should rethink "service" altogether to show its inherent value. For example, shifting portions of an overblown military budget to good public education, universal health care, urgently needed infra-structure improvements, etc. would more clearly reflect the mutual benefits of "service" in a society that cares for the well-being of its citizens.
4/19/18	6. "Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible?" How is it "mandatory" for "all American" when women are excluded from the mandatory list?
4/19/18	1. No. And it's ridiculous and immoral to force people to kill. 2. Yes, abolishment. 3. This is the opposite of what they should be trying to do. 4. People not wanting to kill. 5. Not a one. 6. Nope. 7. Propaganda and rhetoric. Yeah, I said it.
4/19/18	At 18 I registered with Selective Service System (SSS) as a conscientious objector to war. For two years I had a deferment in college. Then I went into Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS). This volunteer work included being a control patient at the National Institutes of Health and rebuilding along the Mississippi Coast after Hurricane Camille. That was the height of the Vietnam War. I was in the marches in DC and our Mississippi rebuilding unit decided to stop paying the excise tax on the phone bill. Chair Wilbur Mills of the House Ways and Means Committee said the tax was for the war in Vietnam. This was for us one small act against the war. In the midst of that good work I decided to stay with BVS but separated from SSS as I returned my draft card. The purpose of SSS was to provide young bodies for the war. I could not be part of this system. I continued with BVS but now going into churches, camps, schools and colleges to talk about alternatives to the military. Arlene and I were married when I completed BVS. One of the most important decisions we made was to keep our income below the taxable level so as to pay no taxes for war. Fast forward 18 years, I was asked to represent the Church of the Brethren on the steering committee of Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT). The vision of CPT is for Christians to take peacemaking as seriously as warriors take war making. Imagine that in terms of funding, training and risk taking. So for 30 years I have been in conflict zones trying to live in ways that reduce violence and nullify war. In Gaza Strip, Iraq, Colombia, Haiti, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mexico, Nicaragua, Guatemala, peace campaigns in the US, Nigeria and First Nation struggles in the US and Canada, I worked with teams strengthening the tools of nonviolence. We've been confronted by suicide bombers, lived on the ground as US Shock and Awe came out of the sky, slept on pathways as paramilitary fighters were expected to enter the village and tented in an encampment where security forces tried to provoke an incident to justify arresting the indigenous youth. We have trained folks as peacemakers to return to their country where 40 different armed groups held power and have joined a nonviolent campaign that ousted the US military from its training ground in Vieques, PR. So we learned the power and tools of nonviolence in contrast to the tools of violence. Yes, violence can destroy. It devastated Iraq and Cambodia. It does not build justice, truth or life. The tools of nonviolence do nurture these values and build a sustainable environment for humanity. The tools of nonviolence are stronger than the tools of

	<p>violence. War has become obsolete. So SSS and registration should be ended. We need dreams that inspires service to others and takes the offense against environmental catastrophe and injustice to people anywhere. We need a vision that builds our world and becomes a beacon of truth, life and justice to the world.</p>
4/19/18	<p>Just as a citizen has the right to serve in the military, they also have the same equal right not to serve. For this reason, the draft and the Selective Service program need to be abolished. It goes against American values and the Bill of Rights to force someone to do something that is in direct opposition to their most deeply held moral, spiritual, and religious values. The military draft goes against the values of liberty. For these reasons, I would never comply with any sort of draft or military participation, including in providing any sort of skills that would provide support to war efforts and the killing of our fellow human beings. There are many other people who feel the same way. War is much more complicated than simple self-defense, because in war an individual cannot make their own decisions as to how to defend themselves, who to defend themselves against, and in what manner to defend themselves. A soldier is told who is and who is not their 'enemy,' rather than deciding for themselves. In truth, there are no true 'enemies,' and the death of any human being is a tragedy. War is a sign that everything has gone wrong, and there is no such thing as a 'successful' mission or a 'victory.' When we are killing each other, we all lose. "Weapons are instruments of fear; they are not a wise man's tools. He uses them only when he has no choice. Peace and quiet are dear to his heart, And victory no cause for rejoicing. If you rejoice in victory, then you delight in killing; If you delight in killing, you cannot fulfill yourself. ...This means that war is conducted like a funeral. When many people are being killed, They should be mourned in heartfelt sorrow. That is why a victory must be observed like a funeral." Tao te Ching verse 31</p>
4/19/18	<p>A military draft in our society today would be inherently unfair because any male with sufficient resources could evade it, particularly now because money so easily translates into political power. Note that past draft-dodging is no stigma: men of Vietnam War era draft age who evaded the draft now occupy prominent positions in the government, and their lack of character has posed no hindrance to their public careers. Their privilege afforded them various mechanisms denied to the rest of us. (Among the options available to them were various educational and occupational deferments, and even specious medical diagnoses.) You know that, I know that, and the American public knows that. Why generate even more cynicism with a new mandatory conscription system? There are far better ways of making national service a calling that will inspire young people as it nurtures skills and knowledge critical to a vibrant society. One obvious choice would be generous funding for higher education accompanied by a post-graduation universal service requirement in a broad range of areas, such as medicine and public health or infrastructure revitalization and expansion. Even the arts should qualify, resembling the WPA of the Great Depression. And believe it, much of the country is mired in an actual economic crisis that requires constructive</p>

	<p>programs like that. Such a system, however, absolutely must have two features: ironclad, no-exceptions participation, and no inclusion of service in the spy agencies, which are mired in dark power and political shenanigans.</p>
4/19/18	<p>Here are thoughts for your consideration: There is no need for conscription. Since the disaster of 9-11, enlistment has filled the military's quotas for recruits. In the unlikely event of a "sudden need" for more military personnel, it is reasonable to assume that, with today's technology, a pool of names could be generated quickly and easily for a potential draft (and more cheaply than the current ongoing registration). SSS registration should be discontinued. If the SSS is to be continued, the SS should contain an option to register as 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 drivers license, qualify for financial aid in advanced education, governmental employment, etc. Removal of such penalties should be retroactive. In regard to Question 4. What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? - The barriers to military service may include serving in undeclared, unconstitutional military actions, loss of freedom, loss of educational opportunities, health, family, personal necessities, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Moral Injury, Military Sexual Assault and violation of personal life philosophies. The question if barriers to non-military service also include the loss of timely incremental personal development; for some people service is more appropriate later in life. All of the barriers to service can be mitigated by transferring large parts of the military budget to good public education, health care, infra-structure needs, etc. fulfilling the needs of a modern society.</p>
4/19/18	<p>I believe that a year or 18 months of mandatory national service would be good for all young people (male and female), but that there should be ample opportunities for non-military service such as working in schools, with the homeless, or for the environment.</p>
4/19/18	<p>The military draft should once and forever eliminated. Too many people have lost lives, been injured, suffer PTSD, because of ill conceived military projects. Many of these were wars that never received congressional approval. I am not naive to think the world is, or will, be a peaceful place. Sometimes we have had to defend our country, our people, our values. At those times history shows our citizens will step forward on their own volition to take a stand. I believe it would be in everyone's best interests if we all, male, female, transgendered, etc., served our country for one-two years. By this I don't mean obligatory military service. There should be an array of options, including the choice of military service. Instead of the military, one could serve in a conservation corps like the CCS, or a national Peace Corps, or working with the elderly, the poor, the mentality ill, our homeless population. There are countless areas of need in America. Another area could be a bolstering the arts, like the WPA, which is vital to the cultural and history of our country. Winston Churchill said, "The arts are essential to any complete national life. The State owes it to itself to sustain and encourage them." None of us respond positively when forced to do something we are opposed to; we become resentful, oppositional. Drafting young men into military, particularly into questionable military actions, does not serve our country well. A range of choices, where a person's talents are best used, would provide America with healthy outcomes.</p>

4/19/18	Doesn't look like you are serious about asking for comments, because this is so tricky to find out how to respond. But let me make this clear: Selective service is a costly, unnecessary, a farce since wealthy people can easily get out of it. We need a service component like Peace Corps that young people can participate in and learn skills without facing gunfire. EVERY youth should be required to do this service even before college for one year or use it to earn their tuition in the future.. Service does have value because it requires discipline, community and an opportunity to excel, but it doesn't need to be military service.
4/19/18	To the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service; A military draft or draft contingency is not a necessary component of U.S. national security. By the United States increasing participation in military, national, and public service to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation we are expanding militarism in civil society and denying the use of the rule of law in place of perpetual war at home and abroad. I support the words of President Kennedy "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." In that spirit I would support voluntary public service that provides community workers to uplift and better those communities through positive non-violent means to be determined by the communities themselves. A selective service employed to use force against our communities and or other societies and individuals has no inherent value for a civil society. It devalues international humanitarian law and ignores with impunity the USA's constitutional recognition of such bodies: The US Supreme Court said, "For two centuries we have affirmed that the domestic law of the United States recognizes the law of nations." (Sosa v. Alvarez-Machain, 542 U.S. 692, 730 (2004) War and acts of war carried out by our military, often illegal deeds of indiscriminate killing in the name of protecting our freedoms and democracy are archaic concepts better left to the history books while we build a society that embraces a world without war. Therefore, there should be an immediate and great reduction in the military; its funding, expenditures, personnel and resources along with a shift to the US Congress ratifying international law and employing measures such as transformative justice to resolve local and state conflicts including war crimes.
4/19/18	1. No. It is clear that the voluntary system used to enlist people into the military has kept the USA safe and secure. But this system does not speak to the equity in such recruitment. How many of our members of Congress have children serving this country? How many of those of us in the middle and upper class in this country have children or even neighbor's children that have enlisted to go to war? Is it really a choice for those who do not have the means to go to college or trade schools? Wars and violence are not the answer to the security issues in our nation. Service, whether voluntary or mandatory, may be. 2. (a) Registration should be eliminated. Such activity is typical of a government unsure of its citizens requiring ID. Young people, both male and female, should be made aware of the opportunities in national service. That will build a force of contributing citizens that will carry our nation and its values for generations to come. (b) If registration is continued, it should be required of both male and female. (c) These young people should be allowed to register as conscientious objector at the time of registration. Now they are only given ten days to prove their status. That is not enough time to gather documentation of their abhorrence of killing and war. 3. Market all the opportunities that would be available in national and public service as well as military service. Benefits for such service should be the same across these opportunities. As a high school counselor, I have seen students participate in JobCorps and come out on the other side with skills that will carry them through life. Working in high school, even middle schools, could build recruitment especially if we are looking for these talented young people to commit to service to this nation. I believe opening up other opportunities for service will encourage them to serve their country. 4. The lack of structured programs for national and public service opportunities leaves those who may wish to serve without a way to easily bring their skills and enthusiasm to the building of our future that does not require them to train them to take a human life. Once the programs are developed then the campaign must be to let everyone know of these opportunities and their benefits. 5. Certainly service has value for both the individual and the nation. For the individual they know they are part of something that brings love

	<p>and kindness to the experience of growing into themselves. For the nation it is the opportunity to have those skills, knowledge and dedication that continues to build the foundation of our democracy, our communities. Just look at the work done by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). 6. If the program is structured correctly, there will be no need for mandatory service requirement. Given the opportunity, I believe young as well as older folks will chose this work to contribute to the health of our nation. 7. See answers 3.,4, and 6.</p>
4/19/18	<p>There is no need for conscription. Since the disaster of 9-11, enlistment has filled the military's quotas for recruits. In the unlikely event of a "sudden need" for more military personnel, it is reasonable to assume that, with today's technology, a pool of names could be generated quickly and easily for a potential draft (and more cheaply than the current ongoing registration). SSS registration should be discontinued. If the SSS is to be continued, the SS should contain an option to register as 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 drivers license, qualify for financial aid in advanced education, governmental employment, etc. Removal of such penalties should be retroactive. The barriers to military service may include serving in undeclared, unconstitutional military actions, loss of freedom, loss of educational opportunities, health, family, personal necessities, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Moral Injury, Military Sexual Assault and violation of personal life philosophies. The question if barriers to non-military service also include the loss of timely incremental personal development; for some people service is more appropriate later in life. All of the barriers to service can be mitigated by transferring large parts of the military budget to good public education, health care, infra-structure needs, etc. fulfilling the needs of a modern society..</p>
4/19/18	<p>The USA is addicted to war as its primary method for achieving and maintaining national security. Thus, if I sign up for service, the bottom line is that I will be trained to kill others, frequently oppressed minorities of other countries. Until the US broadens its goal of service to working for Global security Through the multitude of other avenues available for peacemaking and co- existence on this planet, I have zero interest in service as it now is defined. If service meant helping other human beings in communities develop their economies, become educated, have access to healthcare, grow their own food, and learning nonviolent methods of conflict resolution, I would have signed up for service and encouraged my three children to do the same. Service to me has nothing to do with world dominance Funded by an obtusely bloated Pentagon budget nor the selling of weapons to other governments used to oppress and kill others. The USA is the biggest perpetrator of war on this planet, wasting billions of dollars every year that could be used to uplift humanity/both citizens at home and global citizens. The American military is also a huge contributor to the destruction of our planet. Our global web of military bases is both wasteful In its misuse of human capital and monetary resources, and unwelcome in the majority of the host countries. If you want</p>

	<p>young people to be excited about serving their country, then use the endless intelligence and expertise they possess to make this country and the world a better and safer place. Being a warrior should be one of many tracks available to American citizens as a way of serving their country.</p>
4/19/18	No draft with out congress. And congressional members children first.
4/19/18	One reputation the federal government has in terms of recruiting/hiring is the only way to get a job with the government is if you're a veteran or if your recruited directly from college. I know many people who would love to work for the Federal government but despite having superior technical and professional skills that would make them strong assets to the federal government are never selected through the USAJobs portal. How can we make federal jobs more accessible to competitive applicants?
4/19/18	I believe that Selective Service (draft) registration is unnecessary, harmful and should be abolished. I did not register with the Selective Service System due to deeply held ethical objections to war and militarism. There is no legal way for young men to request conscientious objector status when registering at age 18, no box to check, no "Other" section for comments. A conscientious objector can only apply for CO status during a mobilization, upon receiving an induction order. When I turned 18, I faced a decision to ignore my conscience and register, or refuse to register and forfeit government student aid, employment possibilities, and job training (in some states, nonregistrants also lose the privilege to drive). My nonregistration was deliberate and public, but each year tens of thousands of men nationwide fail to register due to lack of awareness of the requirement and/or lack of awareness of the consequences of nonregistration. These men face lifelong penalties if they fail to register by age 26 (the Selective Service System does not accept late registration from men 26 years of age or older). Although I believe that the Selective Service System should be dissolved, I would support modifications such as: an accommodation for conscientious objectors at the time of registration, and a removal of penalties for nonregistration (reliance on non-coercive measures for compliance).
4/19/18	In testimony against selective military service, I give you the example of Ben Salmon, a Conscientious Objector in WW1. He did not believe that any war could be just. He refused to be trained to kill, or join in the war effort in any other way. He based his stance on political, humanitarian and religious grounds. For this, Ben was incarcerated in military prisons for nearly three years. The Army even sent him to St. Elizabeth's insane asylum where he wrote more than 200 type written pages on why he is a Conscientious objector and refuting the just war theory. Ben was released from his incarceration with a dishonorable discharge from the army that he was never inducted in to. He suffered much but remained steadfast in his beliefs. His friends and his Church abandoned him until near the end of his incarceration when the ACLU took up his case and defended him. Public newspapers across the country called him a slacker with a yellow streak running down his back, on! their front pages. To me Ben Salmon is a hero and a saint. I am in total agreement with him. I believe that no one should kill another human being. Drafting people into military service is putting them in positions where they will be forced to kill. In closing I give you this quote from Be Salmon: Let those that believe in wholesale violation of the commandment, Thou shalt not kill, make a profession of faith by joining the army of war; I am in the army of peace, and in this army, I intend to live and die. (For more information on Ben Salmon, please go to bensalmon.org) Thank You!

4/19/18	<p>1. I do not support continuation of the draft -at least, not if it is limited to a military draft. Should the need arise, rapid reinstatement should be easy to accomplish. 2. Maintaining the Selective Service costs a great deal of money which could be better spent on other public goods - and see comment 1. If there is a military draft, it should include a conscientious objector option. 3. I would be open to considering whether all citizens should be required to register for national service of some kind, with options including military, public service (fire-fighting, forest-service type work, social-services, literacy corps, etc) , and service abroad (for example, something like the Peace Corps). Perhaps it would need to be completed sometime before age 30. 4. People have different life paths and necessities - for example, some become parents at an early age, some are very-career oriented, some need to work to support their families, etc. That said, if there were more options, participation might go up. If this possibility is considered, it would be best to start with a VOLUNTARY year of service, appropriately planned and fairly designed, to see if many young people might not be more than willing to participate. 5. National service (if more than purely military) might become one of the last places where folks are forced to get along with and rely on people who are different from them - which could be a benefit. 6. I don't know - see # 4 above about doing a trial with voluntary participation. 7. I actually think many young people are very altruistic and long to do something meaningful. If a national service year was the norm we might all benefit.</p>
4/19/18	<p>1. No. The U.S. has over 800 military bases in over 70 foreign countries/territories, all staffed by volunteers. No other country in the world is known to maintain half that many. The U.S. is able to recruit far more military volunteers than are necessary for national defense. 2. Remove the gender double standard, or even remove the system entirely. 3. Fund education so more individuals have those critical skills. Incentivize immigrants with critical skills to serve instead of harassing them and withholding citizenship. 4. Wars that aren't worth fighting, government shutdowns, blatant corruption 5. It depends on the service! It can teach Americans from different backgrounds to work together, it can prepare us to respond to disaster, it can instill a sense of responsibility for our communities and country. It can also teach Americans that their government budgets for bombs but not teachers, lobbyist contracts but not wounded soldiers. 6. The U.S. treats its employees so poorly now, requiring service would be exploitation. 7. Fix "service" so that it actually improves American communities. Keep the promises made to those who serve. Set an example worth following.</p>
4/19/18	<p>Selective service system should be abolished. The US should develop a voluntary system of civilian defense and community self-defense, based on a recognition of indigenous sovereignty over the land; Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico, the "US" Virgin Islands and all other colonized lands should be returned. Service should be a supplement to, not a replacement for, ending injustice, inequality and exploitation. Thus reparations to people descended from chattel slaves, and recognition that housing, health care, education and meaningful employment would help create a society in which "service" would be more common and less necessary.</p>
4/20/18	<p>Hello, As a private citizen I respectfully request that we consider including National Service through AmeriCorps as part of service options presented to young people and others in concert with military options. This should include all aspects of military service promotion - including, but not limited to, high school, community college and other recruiting, as well as media (television, sporting events, etc). Funding for such efforts could be provided as part of the large recruitment and marketing budgets for military service, or with increased funding to CNCS - however I think a combined effort would serve everyone and be more effective. In full disclosure, I am an AmeriCorps program officer with a state commission. I am writing because I was not aware AmeriCorps even existed before I saw the job posting for my current position. I now believe deeply in the power of national service as a highly valuable way to serve one's country here in the US. While I also have a deep respect for military service, I would like to see promotion of all types of service options at a more equitable level. I believe many people, who may not choose military service for whatever reason, may consider AmeriCorps if they were made aware of it. Respectfully, Tara</p>

4/20/18	1. no 2.yes 3.pay market value wage 4.health, education,and morals. 5.love of the common good 6.lets debate that question 7.consider multiple avenues of service and fund them all at living wage levels
4/20/18	I am a conscientious objector to war. I support eliminating the Selective Service System, restoring the full rights of people who have not registered with the Selective Service, officially allowing registrants to self-designate as conscientious objectors during Selective Service registration if it is maintained, and ensuring that any alternative service program be completely voluntary and run by a civil agency and with the same benefits as military service.
4/20/18	This question conflates several different ideas “participation in military, national, and public service by individuals” as if they are the same. As an old combat veteran I know that the military is not being used to protect the United States. And I know that the price paid by combat veterans has never been justified by the out come to the country. For the health of the nation we want to radically decrease participation in the military. This means converting the duty of our military from it current duties to defending the US. Currently our military is called on to defend so called US “interests” which it turns out includes anytime some corporation has a scheme to make money.
4/20/18	It is valuable to develop a culture where all citizens realize that the nation needs their active participation. But participation in the military is not “service” to the nation it is service to corporate interests. This confusion has played an important role in discouraging our young people from actually serving our nation. Our compulsory draft registration and militarized culture have led our young to believe that “serving” the nation is done through the military. But they are smart enough to see that obviously the military is not make the country better or safer. This confusion between the military “service” misnomer and actual service to our country has caused young people to not see anyway to participate constructively in building our nation. So the best thing we can do to get young people to participate in the supporting and building the our country would be to throw out and ban the myth that some how joining the military is “serving” the country.
4/20/18	1) Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? It has become clear the the US military is counter productive to U.S. national security. Indeed it is only the Coast Guard and Boarder Patrol that protect our home land. The projection of force around the world only makes the US less secure. If you recall the terrorists who bombed the World Trade Center said they just wanted the US to quit running their country.
4/20/18	1. Based on current national security strategy is appears that the answer is yes. The draft contingency reduces risk and promotes resiliency, elements of one of the national security strategy pillars. Based on the budget, it seems like a low-cost way to meet the requirement. 2. Yes - certainly women should register in today's day and age, there are no restrictions on the jobs they can do and this is 2018. The Agency itself should be closely examined. There is minimal oversight and no check in the system. Because the nation won't need the draft until a bad day happens, how do we ensure the capability is present and robust? Do we just take the Agency's word for it? You don't want to find out on the day you need it that the system won't work. 3. The first question that should be asked is this: Is it required? Depending on the answer you then ask how. Is there a shortage? How do you measure if there is? What is “critical”? And national security and public service could conceivably be at odds with each other. Should they be bundled? Then you need to ask if it is possible? Is unemployment at a point and do economic measures indicate this is doable at a reasonable cost? Then you need to ask if the U.S. Government is the correct agent to implement? Then you can ask how. I think that national security is adequately addressed with the all-volunteer force. Public service is so broad as to be almost meaningless. Does that mean elected officials? Federal government civilians? Local government? Community service? Are there jobs that are unfilled? Or is the Commission looking at participation rates, which naturally will decrease as population grows. 4. Certainly awareness, probably opportunity, return on investment. 5. Boy, this is a tough question and likely unique to the individual. It is a good one, though, because it can mitigate some of the issues with #3. I think there is inherent value in knowing you have contributed in any small way

	<p>to something greater than yourself. I hope you gather enough data to get a good read on this question. 6. I am sure you have studied the history of the draft in America and programs that mandate national service in other countries such as Israel and Germany. 7. Again , the first question is: Is this a requirement? Are there things not getting done that cry out for the propensity to serve to increase? If there is an intrinsic value, is it the role of the Federal Government to enable it? Is the Federal Government even equipped to enable it?</p>
4/20/18	<p>3) How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? For a healthy nation we need to reduce, not increase, participation in the US military. The military is used to threaten and rob from the rest of the world. This creates enemies. In fact we can see that our military adventurism is creating enemies faster than we can kill them. This will be a continuing spiral. When we break out of this futile militarism spiral people will be able to focus on the real needs of this nation. A national health care system that provides health to people – single payer. Defensive of our rights we need more people ready to put their body on the line to violate unjust laws with in this country. This is the true face of national security. This is where we need public service – defending the people from the corporation and plutocrat controlled government.</p>
4/20/18	<p>4)What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? There are two problems that have combined to kill public service. One is the raising military “service“ to such high level that it has sucked out the energy or the visibility of any other, and more real, form of service. Then the obvious counter productiveness of the US military imperialism makes people turn away from the idea of service in general. So quit calling time in the military “service.” Break down the myth that time in the military is helpful to the country. And lift up the real needs we have that must be fixed fix – health care, hyper concentration of wealth, defense of civil liberties, protection and development of basic human rights.</p>
4/20/18	<p>5)Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? Yes service (real service, not military “service”) is essential to our country and any democracy. It helps citizens feel the connection between individuals acts and the nation. Especially at that transition age, late teens to early 20s, being involved in building the nation can become part of a life long understanding that democracies require (require not just allow) citizens to be active in directing the nation to be, or to become, a democracy. We, as a nation, desperately need a revitalization of that vital connection of the people to forming their government. We saw this when our nation was new, we saw this in Israel’s kibbutz, it is why Jefferson said “God forbid we should ever be 20 years without such a rebellion”.</p>
4/20/18	<p>6) Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? I’m not sure if it needs to be compulsory. In fact maybe if it has to be compulsory we have already lost the battle. Something is wrong if people don’t understand that democracy is cooperation, it is people working together of the greater good. Our goal should be to develop a culture where people see the troubles with plastic bags and join together to get the out of their village; where people hear of other’s rights being crushed and all join the Black Lives Matter campaign; where people demand a stop to</p>

	corporations poisoning our environment with neonicotinoids. Our culture should be that we do this kind of service because it is right. Because it is the core of democracy.
4/20/18	7) How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? Our young people have only been shown false roads to service. They can see they are false. So they are left in a cynical confusion. We should stop falsely calling military “service”, it ruins the important concept of service. We need to be honest about our political process – politicians like all of us will feather our own bed if we allow them to. Democracy requires that we don’t fall into the politics of cult, where we are committed to a person. Rather we need keep our eye on policies. We need to see politicians as people who support some good and some bad policies. And we give support based on the balance of policies not the cult of personality. These two things alone would help people feel their actions are meaningful and real – the catalyst for people to serve (real serve, not military “service”).
4/20/18	The main reason many don't want to join the military or consider public service is they don't trust the foreign policy of the United States, and the people who administer it, to be trustworthy. As a parent, I see the DoD as craving the body of my kids in a society that doesn't care enough about a future for those kids. War is not a future for a young person or a country. The USA has become all about war. Many people, I am sure, would be willing to work in a CCC or Americorp kind of volunteerism, and having that be part of growing up here would be amazing. Mandatory, probably not. Killing people as national service, no. "Service" has an inherent value if it is part of community life, if it helps someone become a dependable and respected member of a community. Right now, millions are spent on recruiters in schools and really, only those from military families, are dependable expected recruits. And the USA is taking advantage of them and those without job prospects, treating them badly in the service, promising adventure and giving heartbreak to those who do not want to kill other human beings.
4/23/18	I think the traditional idea of a draft is unpopular and unethical to many young Americans today. We are fortunate that our generation has not had to undergo the draft process or be mandated to serve in military battle. Our generation is one of idealists and innovators. I do think that young people should be required to serve our country in some way- but that does not necessarily mean military service. Opportunities for young people to serve communities should be expanded . AmeriCorps service, and the NCCC model are examples of service that can bring together diverse individuals, develop personal leadership skills, and make an impact on some of America's biggest social and economic problems (homelessness, education, drug use, etc.). Currently there are more young people applying for these positions than there are seats available. I believe that shows a need and a desire for our young people to want to serve. Public Service careers are also not often as talked about as the trendy "STEM" field. High school students should be made aware that you can make a career in public service with technology. However, for that career path to be accessible and fruitful programs like the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program must be kept alive.
4/23/18	As the Director of Community Service at a university, I see first-hand the impact that service has on students and community. Especially in the deep, ongoing roles like those facilitated by national service, my students grow in their self-understanding, their leadership, and their career aspirations. They are better at communication, problem-solving, working with people who are different from themselves. They build skills that prepare them both for their careers and for democratic society. We continuously receive feedback from community partners about the value of student volunteers. In particular, youth-serving roles (tutors, mentors) are in demand, and those could be facilitated through national service. I would direct you to A Promising Connection, published by Campus Compact, which details the research into outcomes of college-age service and the many ways it impacts our communities. As an AmeriCorps alumna, I know first-hand the springboard into my career that those opportunities provided for me. In terms of

	improvement, we could provide more work-study positions to community roles, which would require additional funding. It is challenging that low-income students are boxed out of service opportunities because they need to take on paying roles to finance their education. Encouraging universities to build work-study cohorts that are placed in service roles would make national service more equitable.
4/23/18	<p>To Whom It May Concern, As an American, I feel that service is one of the core duties we have as citizens. I support the Commission in its goals to inspire more Americans to serve and create a culture of service in our nation.</p> <p>In regards to Selective Service, I do not think that general registration should be altered at this time, except possibly expanded to include females. It may be useful to consider having the Selective Service System create more plans for special skills drafts or even to create additional registration programs for that purpose. I think that a draft contingency is absolutely still an essential component of U.S. national security. It is a deterrent for our adversaries to know that the United States has ready plans and can mobilize more than just the reserves in a large conflict.</p> <p>It may be a good idea to go so far as to consider a mandatory service requirement (civilian or military). Service strengthens bonds within the community and between the individuals serving. It causes those serving to consider more than just their own self-interest and can help develop skills and confidence in young people. As for how the U.S. can increase the propensity for Americans to serve, offering benefits (whether college-related or otherwise) is a sure-fire way to go. The more that young Americans can fit service into their plans for their lives, the more they will serve.</p>
4/23/18	One of my best recommendations for increasing the propensity for young Americans to serve would be to expand the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program. Bringing this program to more schools across the nation would connect our young people more intimately with the military and give them a window into military service, all the while giving them leadership skills they will use whatever path they choose in life.
4/23/18	Hello, I'm a 3rd time AmeriCorps member (1st time VISTA) who would've love to continue serving, but alas, I can no longer afford to due to financial concerns (low stipend/high cost of living). So that said, increasing stipend and/or education award would definitely help increase participation. Other benefits would also probably help like maybe offering credit in college via AmeriCorps internship? Finally, definitely promoting AmeriCorps & similar programs at schools/colleges more would probably increase participation. Hadn't heard of AmeriCorps until I researched Peace Corps online. Maybe promote AmeriCorps/National Service as an alternative to the military as I actually considered the military a couple of times before learning about and finding a better fit for me at AmeriCorps.
4/25/18	Hello, Please end Selective Service registration. This violates many peoples' consciences whose beliefs don't include war making. If you fail to end registration, then allow people to register as conscientious objectors. Without that option, individuals are punished for life without due process.
4/25/18	I oppose mandatory military service. I am critical of the recent United States' military activity, and I believe many other Americans are as well. If a draft were enstated, and I were drafted to fight in a conflict I believed was unjust, I would have to refuse. I believe that the major barriers to participation in military service are the extremely poor treatment of veterans, and the unjust and unending nature of our current conflicts. Young people today are taught to engage critically with all aspects of how they live and work. As long as America continues to be involved in seemingly futile conflicts, with the headlines dominated by the horrible living conditions of those we are supposedly trying to help, young people will continue resisting military service.

4/25/18	<p>I was a panel member at the Denver Federal Center National Commission Meeting (Denver, CO). As a current employee of IBC and past employee of the USDA/ARS and BLM, I just wanted to thank the panel members for taking the time to have these dialogues, I feel they are terribly important and I believe that civil service is both under appreciated and under advertised. I just wanted to throw my hat in the future ring if ever there is an opportunity to "take the show on the road" and speak to students and the general public at large about what it means to serve, the opportunities available and how to apply, and the ups/downs of Federal Service, in general, I would love to be a part of that. There is a Diplomat in Residence located in Colorado, Stewart Devine, who does great work for promoting the Department of State and the Foreign Service (to which I am a candidate) and I love the idea of having "Civil Ambassadors" who can advocate, explain and teach those people who are interested in and/ or ignorant of the Civil Service, what they can do (sky is the limit) as employees of the US Gov. Thank you for your time and thanks again for the opportunity, it was invigorating and something I am quite passionate about.</p>
4/25/18	<p>My name is Amir Drissi, I was a panel member at the Denver Federal Center National Commission Meeting (Denver, CO).</p> <p>As a current employee of IBC and past employee of the USDA/ARS and BLM, I just wanted to thank the panel members for taking the time to have these dialogues, I feel they are terribly important and I believe that civil service is both under appreciated and under advertised.</p> <p>I just wanted to throw my hat in the future ring if ever there is an opportunity to "take the show on the road" and speak to students and the general public at large about what it means to serve, the opportunities available and how to apply, and the ups/downs of Federal Service, in general, I would love to be a part of that.</p> <p>There is a Diplomat in Residence located in Colorado, Stewart Devine, who does great work for promoting the Department of State and the Foreign Service (to which I am a candidate) and I love the idea of having "Civil Ambassadors" who can advocate, explain and teach those people who are interested in and/ or ignorant of the Civil Service, what they can do (sky is the limit) as employees of the US Gov.</p>

Thank you for your time and thanks again for the opportunity, it was invigorating and something I am quite passionate about.

Respectfully,

Amir Drissi

4/27/18	<p>To Protect Christian Consciences and Address Conscription of Women RESOLUTION 5-11A Overtures 5-29–32 (CW, pp. 354–356) Whereas, On December 3, 2015, United States Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter opened all military occupations and positions to women, including those involving direct combat engagement; and Whereas, On January 1, 2016, implementation of this policy began; and Whereas, This policy was implemented despite significant division over the matter among the general American population, lawmakers, and the military itself; and Whereas, The Marine Corps’ request for a partial exemption from the order was denied; and Whereas, On June 14, 2016, the United States Senate voted on Senate Bill 2943 (National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017) which included under “Subtitle H” at Section 591 (Applicability of Military Selective Service Act to Female Citizens and Persons) the following provision: “(b) (1) The duty to register imposed on male citizens and persons residing in the United States by subsection (a) shall apply to female citizens of the United States and female persons residing in the United States who attain the age of 18 years on or after January 1, 2018,” which provision and bill must yet be reconciled with H.R. 4909 by the same name (National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017); and Whereas, If passed, this legislation would require women 18 years of age on or after January 1, 2018, to register for selective service and a possible draft, as the primary rationale provided by the U.S. Supreme Court in allowing women to be excluded from the draft was their ineligibility to serve in a combat capacity (Rostker v. Goldberg); and Whereas, The U.S. Supreme Court ruled on March 8, 1971, that “the exemption for those who oppose ‘participation in war in any form’ applies to those who oppose participating in all war and not to those who object to participation in a particular war only, even if the latter objection is religious in character” (Gillette v. United States [401 U.S. 437 (1971)]), to the effect that the United States does not allow for selective conscientious objection (e.g., for a specific war deemed unjust); and Whereas, Christians are to be subject to governing authorities (Rom. 13; 1 Peter 2; Fourth Commandment LC and SC; AC XVI) while remaining obedient to God whenever human authority seeks to require us to act contrary to our conscience-bound convictions regarding God’s Word and will (Acts 5:29; Fourth Commandment LC and SC; AC XVI); and Whereas, Biblical objections to women being required to serve in the military in general or to serve in combat positions in particular have been voiced by many Christians, including members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), based on scriptural concerns such as the complementary yet ordered relationship between man and woman (Gen. 1–2; 1 Cor. 11); women as God’s vessel for bearing life (Gen. 3:20); the requirement given to husbands, not wives, to love and honor in a manner that emulates the sacrifice of Christ for His Bride, the Church (Eph. 5; 1 Peter 3:7; see also Luther’s work “Whether Soldiers, Too, Can Be Saved” [AE 46, pp. 87–135]); and the Scripture’s teaching on marriage, family, and vocation (Prov. 31:10–31; Titus 2:3–5; etc.); and Whereas, That which a Christian woman may do voluntarily in her Christian freedom (Gal. 5:1) must be distinguished from that which a woman is forced to do; and Whereas, Lutheran Christians have a high regard for God’s gifts of human reason and natural law, and take very seriously the many reason-based arguments that have been made (by both Christians and non-Christians) against women serving in combat positions (e.g., the negative impact on the family; the necessary stripping away of modesty to be trained and perform combat functions; physical strength comparisons between men and women in general; other physical and biological differences between men and women; mixed-gender troop performance under combat conditions; etc.); therefore be it Resolved, That the LCMS in convention acknowledge the Department of Defense Instruction 1300.06: Conscientious Objectors (DoDI 1300.06, May 31, 2007), where two classifications for a conscientious objector are recognized (Class 1-0 and Class 1-A-0) and stand resolutely with any woman who holds “a firm, fixed, and sincere objection to participation in war in any form or the bearing of arms, by reason of religious training and/or belief” (DoD 1300.06 paragraph 3.1); and be it further Resolved, That the Word of God and the LCMS in convention supports individuals in the LCMS who conscientiously object (1) to a woman’s service in the military in general or (2) to a woman in the military being required to serve in a combat capacity; and be it further Resolved, That due to deep and widespread concern among many members of the LCMS—rooted in biblical convictions, historic understandings of natural law, and reason-based common sense—about the negative impact of the conscription</p>
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of women on individual consciences, marriages, families, and society as a whole, the LCMS in convention strongly oppose any legal action that forces the compulsory service of women in the military, also called the conscription of women, by mandatory participation in Selective Service registration, a draft, or by any other mechanism; and be it further Resolved, That we also defend the informed consciences of women who have carefully considered their station in life and Holy Scripture on this issue who wish to voluntarily serve in our nation's military; and be it further Resolved, That the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) continue their diligent and beneficial work as tasked by the 2013 convention (Res. 2-12A) to study the issue of employing women in combat and bring it to a swift conclusion for widespread distribution and use in the church; and be it further Resolved, That at its earliest convenience, the Council of Presidents become familiar with and discuss together this topic and the information readily available (along with the forthcoming CTCR document) to better assist pastors and congregations and those LCMS individuals "whose position is firm, fixed, sincere and deeply held" (DoDI 1300.06) who are bound to apply for conscientious objector status; and be it finally Resolved, That the LCMS in convention strongly support the responsibility and necessity for men and women to live and act according to the Word of God and their consciences in this matter while respecting the consciences of others (Rom. 14:2-3, 13-23; 1 Cor. 10:29; 1 Tim. 1:5; Heb. 13:18). Action: Adopted (6) (Res. 5-11A was introduced by the committee after striking out the third resolve paragraph. Debate was ended by voice and show of hands, and the resolution was adopted as changed [Yes: 946; No: 89].)

4/27/18	<p>I truly believe that if we want increased participation in military, national, and public service, there should be concerted effort to ensure we are taking necessary steps to mirror the nation we serve which is a very diverse one and will be even more diverse as a nation over the coming decade. The perception of military, national, and public safety professions over recent years has brought doubts of genuine progress for the good of the people. The perception is that many who are currently serving have lost and perhaps forgotten the true meaning of servant leadership-it is a non-negotiable leadership trait in one's character and behavior. Not often used as a vetted, researched, and codified term, institutional biases and barriers are and continue surface in hiring practices, professional advancement, and even retention. Having an appreciation for diversity in the aforementioned professions and taking the time to embrace diversity and inclusion is paramount to acquiring, developing, employing, and retaining those who are currently serving and those who wish to serve. Steve Maraboli once said, ""When we replace a sense of service and gratitude with a sense of entitlement and expectation, we quickly see the demise of our relationships, society, and economy." The gratitude in being able to serve holds priceless value. It is a trait that once ingrained, will almost always supersede the need for entitlement and expectation. Sadly, many who serve, are self-serving and at the expense of the nation we take pride in serving. We must get back to the basis of servant leadership. We have all had our own reasons of why we have served. Some serve because of familial ties and history or serving. Some serve because of criminalistics reasons. Some serve because it was the best way to jumpstart their lives financially. In my story and journey, I had no other way to fund college so I entered military service by way of an 4-year ROTC scholarship. Never knowing my father, my mom being a drug addict at the time, and my grandmother raising me, it was a WAY OUT AND UP. Being taught basic principles in life by my grandmother of doing your best, getting your education, and having a level of independence as a young adult are time timeless treasures to. Today is just a little different with youth. They are quick thinkers, learners and seem to be less concerned about staying divisive but are more inclusive than any era. They grow to become very irritable when things take too long. Young adults want to be heard, they listen, and the act...sometimes react to what is going on around them. They need to see the world of diverse perspectives in public service. They are watching us.</p>
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4/29/18	<p>Margaret Porter, April 29, 2018</p> <p>Commission on Military, National and Public Service</p> <p>Dear Commissioners:</p> <p>Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit comments on this issue vital to our democracy. I am glad to learn of your work, about which I found out only accidentally and after the fact from a friend, John Huyler, who testified at your Denver hearing.</p> <p>I personally believe that public service is essential to our democracy. I think that the excess of individualism that has infected our culture has led to low civic participation rates and a focus on individual interests over common ones. We are doomed as a democracy if we do not recapture the commitment to the common good.</p> <p>I myself never served in the military or the various civilian service agencies such as the Peace Corps or VISTA or Teach for America. I did, however, work</p>
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for the Federal government in a variety of technical, managerial and executive positions, including 12 years of service as Chief Counsel of the Food and Drug Administration. I was privileged to serve at a time in which, regardless of the politics of the Administration, civilian government service was valued. Now, it seems to me that military service is glorified over civilian service, but neither is adequately resourced or properly valued.

I would advocate for universal compulsory national service, military and civilian. I would make the opportunities to serve be broad so individuals'™ ethnic, religious and cultural preferences could be accommodated. I would accommodate individual skills and capacities. I would excuse no one except those who have insufficient physical or mental capacity for simple service. I would reform the Selective Service Commission to establish a non-partisan Federal agency whose mission was to administer such a system. I would have all individuals register when they are 18 and give everyone until 35 to complete a two- year term of service.

For such a system to work, we must change our culture to one of civic engagement. There are some hopeful signs, particularly among some young people, but I actually think this is the hardest part. The Commission will need to enlist the advocacy of all our political leadership as well as the leadership of our major military, civic and service organizations. There will be tough questions, such as which organizations could qualify for receiving compulsory service, but I would urge you not to be deterred.

Thank you for your work. I look forward to hearing about your progress.

4/30/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God no. 2. End it. 3. Stop taking on idiot projects that have nothing to do with actually keeping actual America safe. 4. None. There is too much of that theft funded "service". There needs to be less of it. 5. Military service? No. Private sector charity? Yes. 6. No. 7. Stop wasting money and lives on nonsense. <p>-Arvin Vohra</p>
4/30/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No 2. Yes, get rid of it. 3. Get out of foreign countries and concentrate on defense. Everyone wants to take care of themselves and their family. No good person wants to go to strange countries to kill people.

	<p>4. Not wanting to kill people for no good reason.</p> <p>5. Probably not, but if so, it's in defending ourselves.</p> <p>6. No.</p> <p>7. Ya know you wouldn't need so many soldiers if we just minded our own business.</p>
5/1/18	<p>1. A military draft is a crime against individual freedom and against the people towards whom the draftee will be ordered to fire. It is not necessary.</p> <p>2. The selective service system should be ended.</p> <p>3. The government of the United States should cease its military operations, overt and covert, against the peoples of the world. The government should enhance individual freedom by decriminalization of narcotics and cease using public resources to empower oligarchs.</p> <p>4. The most important barrier to serving in the US government is having a conscience and being empathetic towards other human beings.</p> <p>5. Service's inherent value is meeting the needs of other humans.</p> <p>6. Mandates, when done with good intentions, often have unintended bad consequences. Mandates from the current oligarchy running the government would no doubt have evil intentions and evil consequences. So there should be no mandatory service requirement.</p> <p>7. The United States can "increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve" by ceasing to serve the interests of oligarchy, ending mass incarceration and dismantling its military.</p>

5/2/18	<p>Selective service should be an option for those who do so with personal moral conviction to go to the front-line, not FORCE, but by CHOICE. It is their RIGHT or FREEDOM to bear arms or not similar to the first ammendment. Weâ€™re already in the 21st century where the whole world is CONNECTED and GLOBALIZED where there is talk of peace and humanitarian activities. People understand their cultural difference more than ever before. If the dictatorial approach or forced registration requirement, there may be further fear and anxiety during war for those involved. If itâ€™s their choice in their life plan and choice in life to serve, there may be less conflict and better military cause.</p>
5/2/18	<p>I would suggest that we start paying a base housing allowance that reflects some form of reality. My son is currently serving. He and his wife served out of country for three years. When they were ordered back to the states they were put up at a hotel on base for about two weeks, then were told they would receive the standard base housing allowance until their on base house was ready. the were told it would be 6 weeks. The housing allowance was less than half of any place they could find within 45 minutes of the base. They had to pay the difference (\$30.00 per day) OUT OF THEIR OWN POCKET. The hotel they ended up having to use was a total dump (and that description is being very generous).</p> <p>I suggested he contact his Congressman and Senators, however he was at that point, going to be a lifer and was concerned about retaliation.</p> <p>As soon as his enlistment is up, he is outta there. He won't be reenlisting, even with the bonus paid for his MOS. He can't afford it.</p> <p>I would suggest making two years of service a requirement for all of those capable, upon their eighteenth birthday or graduation of high school. Then allow them two years of college/trade school free of charge.</p>

5/2/18

I think that the Selective Service System still provides an incredible safety net for the defense of their country especially for the limited expenditures needed. In event of a national emergency, compulsory service might be critical and this is the process to enable it. Leave the process in place with some changes and modernizations.

I do believe that the current registration system should be expanded to cover both males and females. Our society had matured to the point where there should be no differences between what is expected between the sexes in a time of emergency. Could SSNs be used in place of registration since everyone has a SSN updated yearly for tax purposes? Exercise the whole process from top to bottom on a regular basis.

I do not believe that the US population needs or wants compulsory service at this point without some sort of real existential threat posed to our country. We all want to do our own thing and not be forced until we have no choice.

I do believe that there are many people who would like to find ways to help their fellow citizens. It seems to me that we should be looking for ways to create opportunities that enable people to provide public service without it being in the "real" military. For example:

- Expansion of Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)/Urban Search and Rescue Teams.
- Expansion of military auxiliaries such as Civil Air Patrol, Coast Guard Auxiliary, and Military Auxiliary Radio Service (MARS).
- Other things people can be organized into for various in emergencies with minimal training (1 weekend a month) and serve in their local areas.

- Re-establishment of the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) for summer employment of youths and year round employment of people < 25.

Some sort of benefits for all people participating (scholarships, stipends, summer work payment, tax credits, etc)

We need to be concentrating on the following:

-Finding opportunities for those wanting to help but do not want to be deployed.

-Finding opportunities for those that might not be able or want to be physically challenged. Someone who can't run 2 miles might be perfectly able to watch a computer monitor.

-Finding opportunities where people can help and work and go to school all at the same time

We have to make, fund and advertise these opportunities so they are easily findable and available.

	<p>We can not cause anyone to go through various layers of bureaucracy and waste like in many NGO operations. This is key. People are skeptical of big government and if they see anything like this being abused you will cause more harm than good.</p>
5/2/18	<p>I am a professor of Military History, and a Selective Service Board member in Florida. I am very interested in the work of the Commission and would like to get involved in some way. Please contact me.</p> <p>Robert A. Taylor, Ph.D.</p>

	<p>Florida Institute of Technology</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
5/2/18	<p>1. Is a military draft or draft contingency still necessary -- YES</p> <p>2. Are modifications to the selective service needed -- YES, women must register</p> <p>3. How can the United States increase participation in military... Understand how vulnerable we are today and let people know why registration is essential.</p> <p>4. What are the barriers to participation in military -- Too much unnecessary involvement in places where we should not put people in harm's way.</p> <p>5. Does service have inherent value, and if so what is it -- I can't believe you ask this question, just study history.</p> <p>6. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary -- Right now I'm not sure</p> <p>7. How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans -- Make people understand protecting your country,</p>

	<p>culture and lives of citizens is everyone's duty.</p> <p>R. Nester Heid, Baltimore, MD [REDACTED]</p>
5/2/18	<p>Our democracy and our American values have diminished in the homes across our great land. We have young adults who go into schools and shoot to kill. We have adults who are now of age who no longer care for or passionate about patriotism. In addition, there are many who do not care if they work or go to school. Our greatest times, for now are behind us. The greatest generation that ever existed has now died off and I am only byproduct of it. As bad as I would I would hate to put the lives of my grandchildren in harm's way, I think it's time to go in different direction. I feel that we should once again impose the draft on all 18-year olds and they should serve a minimum of 4 years for our country. We don't have to build a wall, we can stop that foolishness and think rationally. We would have a workforce that would be trained and would become more engaged with our country and its needs. They could guard our borders and they would be trained for warfare to protect our country. For exchange of their loyalty and 4 years of service, we could provide them with 4 years of college, technical training or continue their pledge of service in the military. Our country would once again become strong and educated with patriots who once again have pride in America, pride and desire to raise families and improve the morality of our homes. Sure, there will be a multitude of people who will fight against this idea, but there will be a multitude that will endorse and follow. We must change course and set a new direction to create the next best generation.</p> <p>Gene Brown</p> <p>Southside, AL</p>

5/3/18	<p>The military draft is not necessary since there are no threats to the nation any longer. Any threats to the United States are those which are invented by the pentagon and other vested interests whose careers and paychecks depend on continual strife throughout the world. The hawks of government will always find a nation to demonize somewhere in the world because it is in their best interests to do so. The only reason why we don't have half a million troops in the Middle East is due to the fact that the military doesn't have a bottomless supply of cannon fodder like it did during the Vietnam War. Due to the smaller armed forces that we have since the end of the Cold War, a draft would be somewhat selective due to computers and technology and wouldn't look anything like the draft prior to 1973. No longer would just anyone be drafted but only the best, brightest, and smartest would have their lives and careers interrupted. Does anyone think the deadbeats of yesteryear would be drafted? The drug users, high school dropouts, misfits, felons, and others would be omitted due to the fact that they are more difficult to train and present problems that the armed forces would be forced to deal with. Note the problems that the military faced during the Vietnam War as well as the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq when it lowered standards and let felons, drug users, and others into the ranks and later had to discharge them because of the problems they presented. If the United States would cease expanding its empire around the world and concentrate more on the problems here at home, it could even decrease the size of its armed forces which has become nothing more than a federal make-work program as well as a burden on the taxpayer. Only a fool or someone suffering from delusions actually believe that the US military is overseas in order to "defend our freedom".</p>
5/3/18	<p>This e mail was to take the year 2018 into accord from January on. Here it is the end of April, 2018. We just now got this e mail or did we receive it by mistake ?????</p> <p>January, February, March and April are past. Should this not have been out sooner ????</p>
5/3/18	<p>I will NEVER let my children serve in any armed forces!</p>
5/4/18	<p>Wars may be fought with weapons but they are won by men.(Gen. Patton). There will always be a need for the draft as war requires sheer numbers to occupy an opposing Country. The Draft allows a Government to get the best and weed out the rest. The other half of Pattons quote: It is the Spirit of the men who follow and of the man who leads that gains the victory. Voluntary induction misses many natural warriors. From Basic Training, a D.I. judges recruits on their merit, allowing the cream to rise to the top. Only until a soldier is faced with the consequences of death, will he/she know how they will perform. In a time of National Emergency or an impending invasion, numbers are what is required to gain the victory. The draft is the only tool to provide such numbers efficiently. To achieve necessary quota's in key MOS, requires a guarantee of monetary benefit which is reasonable. To advance in any occupation, one must have the 3 basic skills: reading, writing and math. Find recruits who are avid readers. With ample instruction, they can be taught to perform any task as they have the ability to disseminate information. Mix that with physical skill and you have a warrior, if properly trained. One inherent value in joining the military is the guarantee of a job skill that will carry the soldier thru life in a capitalistic society. Yes, the mandatory service commitment is necessary and feasible. This is achieved by promoting Americanism, Patriotism and a respect for our Flag. This should start in the home but if not, it should begin in the school with the morning pledge. Our WW2 Vets were tough Son of a Guns. They lived thru the Great Depression. That toughness gained the advantage on D-Day, Tarawa, Iwo Jima, The Bulge. I fear we do not grow those type of soldiers in large numbers today. The Military must, in my view, regain its toughness in training and in discipline. If a trainee is supremely offended by the verbal abuse of a Drill Instructor to the point of filing a complaint and we allow that complaint to dictate training SOP, all involved have lost. The recruit will never reach full potential in life nor will our military remain strong. The Military is not for all. Some will never have what it takes. That is a fact of life but the Draft provides those sheer</p>

	<p>numbers that are necessary to put an invasion force on the ground for months and years on end. War has changed but in retrospect, it will always take a live Soldier who places his boot on the chest of our enemy for a battle or war to be won. Institute a test for finding the spirit of a soldier irrespective of his/her educational back round. General Patton knew that of which he spoke. Most importantly, infantry soldiers, our killers must be given secondary MOS training of their choice before separation. They deserve the opportunity to succeed in civilian life after combat. Thank You, Donald W. Glover VCSCO Kimble County Texas</p>
5/5/18	<p>I have a daughter who begins college next year. I strongly believe a year of public service would give her a sense of pride and support her growth as a person. However, I wouldn't encourage the military based on the sexism I experienced when I was a service member. I believe there are still barriers for women in the military and it isn't high enough on the military policy agenda.</p>
5/5/18	<p>To Whom it May Concern,</p> <p>The following letter was sent by another individual recently. I fully agree with its contents, so I send it to you once again:</p> <p>To the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service;</p> <p>A military draft or draft contingency is not a necessary component of U.S. national security. By the United States increasing participation in military, national, and public service to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation we are expanding militarism in civil society and denying the use of the rule of law in place of perpetual war at home and abroad. I support the words of President Kennedy "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." In that spirit I would support voluntary public service that provides community workers to uplift and better those communities through positive non-violent means to be determined by the communities themselves.</p>

A selective service employed to use force against our communities and or other societies and individuals has no inherent value for a civil society. It devalues international humanitarian law and ignores with impunity the USA's constitutional recognition of such bodies: The US Supreme Court said, "For two centuries we have affirmed that the domestic law of the United States recognizes the law of nations." (Sosa v. Alvarex-Machain, 542 U.S. 692, 730 (2004))

War and acts of war carried out by our military, often illegal deeds of indiscriminate killing in the name of protecting our freedoms and democracy are archaic concepts better left to the history books while we build a society that embraces a world without war. Therefore, there should be an immediate and great reduction in the military; its funding, expenditures, personnel and resources along with a shift to the US Congress ratifying international law and employing measures such as transformative justice to resolve local and state conflicts including war crimes.

Sincerely,

Gail McManus

5/7/18	<p>1) Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? RESPONSE: Only as related to a pathway for citizenship for those who are undocumented and have no other viable option. National service, including military and AmeriCorps and other programs, are necessary components of not only national security, but of an individual's stake in our country.</p> <p>How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? RESPONSE: treat it as the workforce development assets they are. This is a way to serve your country, earn money for higher education, and gain skills and access to opportunities that can be life changing.</p> <p>What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? RESPONSE: the stipend for national service is not adequate to live without public assistance or subsidized housing, and it is hard for all types of service occupations to compete with private sector salaries- even working at a fast food establishment pays more. We need to invest in these opportunities to serve as a nation if we want our citizens to feel connected and supported.</p> <p>Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it?</p> <p>Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? RESPONSE: Yes it is valuable and feasible if it is well funded and something we as a nation considers as important to our economy as paying taxes.</p> <p>How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? RESPONSE: promote, promote, promote, and get corporations involved in the effort. Maybe they have special hiring methods for national service members, scholarships from institutions for national service members, special tax breaks or license plates- something that recognizes and incentivises their service.</p>
5/7/18	<p>I don't believe in a draft. Those who desire can serve. We should not be at war. We should live in peace and lead all other nations to peace thru our example. Thanks.</p>
5/7/18	<p>These days, it is a moral decision to resist selective service. As the United States continues to make wars to get oil and other resources, people may resist by not registering because they believe these wars are immoral.</p>

5/7/18	I am totally opposed to the draft. I avoided the draft during the Vietnam war by teaching because I felt the wars in Southeast Asia were based on lies like so many of our wars are.. Many of the wars we are fighting today are illegal and immoral and Involve the killing of innocent people. It's time to become a peace economy and rebuild our communities.
5/7/18	Draft Women
5/7/18	<p>It is a needless waste of money to register people year after year for no good reason. If conscription were ever needed and legislation passed, it could be implemented very quickly with modern technology. Military demands have been able to be met by a volunteer force since 1973, including fighting two wars. Whether it is an appropriate use of resources to in effect absolve the vast majority of the population from military service to defend the country is a separate debate.</p> <p>The purpose of conscription is exclusively to meet military manpower requirements and not to accomplish any possible social engineering objectives in terms of gender equality. Whomever is to be conscripted should be left to those entrusted with the responsibility at that hopefully distant time. In WW2 the U.K. had compulsory service for women in agriculture and other war related occupations.</p>
5/7/18	No person should be forced to serve in the military against their will. The military draft should be permanently abolished. Furthermore, in the spirit of permanently abolishing the military draft, the US government should end draft registration.
5/8/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is military/medical draft still needed? Yes, registry of age available men is necessary in case of a national security threat. A list of medical professional are also needed for a national health threat. Weaponized lethal biological substances will both harm the citizenry and weaken our defenses. 2. SSS changes? SSS needs to increase efforts to educate high school students on the draft registry, board processes, and each person's obligation to national service. 3. Increase awareness? Suggest working with Dennis Prager to create a 8-10 minute video explaining the SSS. 4. Barriers? Many young men believe the military will accept anyone. This notion passed down from the WWII generation. Teenagers fail to appreciate the mental and physical requirements of todays military. Preparation for the ASVAB is necessary. Many do not understand the purpose or content of examination. 5. Value of service? Sadly, the Vietnam Era social unrest diminished the importance of generational military service obligation. The cost of maintaining

	<p>a fully capable military force has affected the size of a reserve force. The country simply cannot afford a what is needed. Changing the reserve force may be necessary. Possible changes may be; reducing career options, more localize training, domestic mission limits, stressing humanitarian missions, shifting senior NCO's to active duty positions limiting reserve promotions.</p> <p>6. Mandatory service? Not politically feasible. Federal and state Gov't should create as many service opportunities as desired, but cannot make it mandatory. Incentives should be created to offset lower salaries.</p> <p>7. How do we encourage our youth to serve? Unfortunately, mass media glorifies the mechanics of war without exalting the bravery of individual/team action. Video games make war seem effortless and benign. Video gamers start/stop virtual battles at will. Bloodshed is graphic, but temporary. No one ever truly dies or suffers life long injuries. SSS needs to use the tools of social media to promote national service. Make videos by first enlistment members giving testimony of their experience. Insert short PSA's into on-line videos. Drop pebbles within the electronic ocean to prompt thinking about national service by all ages.</p>
5/8/18	<p>It is Un-Constitutional for the US to order men to war. To hold them hostage to war.</p> <p>To hold them against their free will. End the draft.</p> <p>The CIA/US has created conflicts all over the world NOT for democracy but for fascism.</p> <p>The CIA is anti-democracy and continues to act to end democracy in the US and internationally.</p> <p>The corruption of our MIC to increase wars and war mongering are un-Constitution and against the peace of the world. End the draft.</p>
5/9/18	<p>Draft registration has been shown to be unnecessary : the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan used increased recruitment and National Guard to avoid the draft (and, possibly a Congressional declaration). Draft registration, if continued, should make clear the options for conscientious objector status if it cannot be noted on the registration explicitly. As a member of our local Draft Board since 2005 I have participated in the excellent and fair training in ascertaining a draftee's qualifications for modification or exemption from military service. However, this is after the fact and not well known to men before being drafted. There are lifelong penalties for not registering. This inherent non-judicial punishment should be eliminated. This can be fairly addressed either by eliminating the draft or by allowing objector status upon registration and letting that be verified by appearing before the Local Board when summonsed to active service. Somewhat as it is now except that the draftee knows from the time of registration what will be required.</p>

5/9/18	<p>As a military retiree, I oppose any form of recruitment or selective service/draft! It is time our country looks for peaceful solutions vice clandestine reasons to be at "war" for oil and or minerals. The military budget is over inflated and our social programs are under funded!!! PEOPLE matter more than anything our military is doing right now. We no longer use our military for their intended use and many innocent civilians are killed because of our over reach!!! Furthermore....our country can't properly take care of the veterans it has already produced!!! If we can't take care of them and get them off the streets, than we have failed supporting those who committed their lives to serving in the military!!!! Politicians have no problem creating wars that cause loss of life on both sides, yet do you see any of THEIR family members in the military?!?!?!? I support our troops to the end of time, but I DO NOT support the reasons for what they are being used for by our corrupt government! DO NOT send anymore young people to die in your foolish "wars"so no, we DON'T need a draft, selective service....keep it an all volunteer force! This retired veteran can no longer support sending young people to die for our government or come home with mental/medical conditions. You DO realize how many of our vets commit suicide each day right?!?! Form a Department of Peace and let people serve that way. #VeteransForPeace #WinWithoutWar BrendaLee Lennick (Smith) YN1 USN Ret.</p>
5/9/18	<p>As a veteran who served 2001-2006, this absolutely had an effect on how I viewed my place in the world and how I interact with it. I came back in 2006 and have spent the last 12 years wondering why my generation is easy to be blown over by any idea and I think there is a strong causality between lack of military service/national service and the amount our citizens care for the democracy we've been entrusted in. Thus it spirals into civic ignorance and were in the current quagmire our nation is trying to endure, partisan politics with a country divided and civically conquered by their own lack of participation in the process. Please consider bringing back some sort of national service for our country, we cannot endure as a nation unless our citizens feel involved and part of the system. It currently is the illusion that the freedoms we have, are given rights rather than something each generation is tasked with upholding. Civic discourse cannot occur, when there is no common thread. Where is the thread that binds fellow American to each other? We have lost this ground and would rather see each other as a different team rather than all playing the same game. Military service taught me a "one team, one fight" philosophy and it pains me when we get so impassioned in our beliefs, dialogue isn't even possible. I strongly believe this is a symptom of the lack of common sense, common purpose, and common goal. The military merely exposed me to viewpoints I never would have sought out on my own and forced me to work with that. Our country needs this ability, to respect ones differences and find common ground and understanding where it exists and if it doesn't, respect for differences that may not effect ones individual life. This begins with recognizing the other side as an individual within the common tribe.</p>
5/9/18	<p>1) I think not.</p> <p>2) Yes. Whether or not conscription is to be reinstated, it is essential that SSS when registering draft-age men (and women, should it come to that) make provision for their registration of conscientious objection. No such provision now exists on your forms, yet the law clearly provides for recognition of CO status. The work of the SSS in this important respect will be much encumbered by the lack of a clear means by which registrants may declare their position.</p> <p>3) One way is to make provision for conscientious objection, thus routing registrants efficiently out of military and into national public service of a civilian kind.</p>

	<p>4) Conscientious objection is an insuperable barrier for some of us. It was for me in 1971.</p> <p>5) Decidedly, but it must be weighed against countervailing values such as liberty. Volunteers for an organization like the Peace Corps combine both values. Conscription destroys the latter.</p> <p>6) No, not necessary. Perhaps valuable, although I doubt it. Feasible certainly, as a matter of historical record.</p> <p>7) By expanding the range of service options.</p>
5/9/18	<p>I believe all those that feel war is the only answer to disagreements, should be the first to enlist. And age is no barrier so you be 90 and must serve if you want war. Family members of these pro war mongers must also serve and for good measure throw in the NRA members, too. Where and how did we get to this point? Have we lost our senses? At what point is the Congress going to take responsibility for the disaster we have in the Oval Office?</p>

5/9/18

My name is Will Thomas and I am a US Navy veteran who was on board the USS Okinawa during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. The division I was in on the ship was the OI- Operations Intelligence, which handled the radar imaging. During the blockade, we picked up nearly 2000 Marines in Mayport, Florida. At that point, the crew believed that our helicopters on board would be landing the Marines in Cuba for an invasion. Almost all of the officers in the OI were in favor of such an incursion. Besides worrying about a possible nuclear war with the USSR, and with most of the officers in my division rooting for an invasion, I thought they were crazy. That was my first exposure to militarism. I have been anti-war ever since. In my 75 years of life, I and others, have concluded that the country of my birth, alas, is addicted to war. Once addicted, it is very difficult to "kick the habit."

Regarding the draft, let me cite a Daniel Webster quote: "Where is it written in the Constitution, in what article or section is it contained, that you take children from their parents, and parents from their children, and compel them to fight the battles of any war in which the folly or the wickedness of Government may engage it?" Think of Vietnam.

Our young people, men and women, should not be subjected to a draft of any kind as noted by Daniel Webster himself! Too many politicians and media people have elevated every American who puts on a uniform to "hero" status. That may attract some disaffected youth to want to be part of the military and be told that they are "protecting our freedoms" by fighting black and brown people overseas, including Muslims. Sadly, they are often deceived into believing that they are "a force for good in the world" whereas by attacking and killing many innocent people, their actions make us less safe. So, I would eliminate the draft altogether.

However, I believe our country does need young people to engage in service to their communities or in other parts of the US, even overseas as with the Peace Corps. The budget for AmeriCorps, Vista and City Year, among other social service agencies, ought to be increased. Young folks can help to improve America in many different ways. In recalling Dr. Martin Luther King's memorable 1967 speech in NYC - "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence," Dr. King commented: "A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual doom." In other words, the US spends too much of our wealth on wars/occupations/overseas military bases and not enough on programs that help the most vulnerable of our citizens and programs that enrich our lives. This must change if America is to survive as a country.

5/9/18	<p>A registration is no longer needed. I keep hearing about the all volunteer military. If we are sending people to fight then they should be willing and support of citizens and congress must come first.</p> <p>There is no need to keep this registration... It also lacks opportunity for male citizens to elect CO and non combatant service. If there is a lack of service by individuals with special skills it is a sign that the country is not supportive and congress should look at issues and take back the power so they decide if we send military into harms way. They answer to the citizens and can make those decisions with open discussion and getting the pulse of their communities as to if the citizens will support military action with support of funds and support of the people who will step up to fill the needed roles to carry out the mission the congress sets forth.</p>
5/10/18	<p>With respect to Selective Service continuation, I believe that all American adults should register, even though no compulsory draft military service is planned or needed. All American adults should serve our country in some capacity - other countries have that policy and it works. When I was called up during the Vietnam War, I stood before our Draft Board to apply for conscientious objector status, and I would do so again. My father and grandfathers, as Quakers, had great respect for military leaders (a second cousin was decorated in WWI) but could not serve in WWII and WWI respectively, believing that some people had to work to find alternatives to hot war (deterrence is better). I have great respect for those who serve our country in a military capacity, as we need a strong military. But there are many ways we can serve our country and should do so. I worked in Bangladesh for two years</p>

	<p>(during the Vietnam war) in a hospital, as part of a group to counter the influence of Russian scientists in the hospital trying to tilt Bengali allegiance to the USSR - I feel we served a humanitarian purpose as well as advertising the freedoms and democracy of the USA. So registration should be required and enforced, in order to give attention to alternatives to military service. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. Fred Koster, retired.</p>
5/10/18	<p>Having more people in the military won't make things stronger or better, and families will be losing loved ones because of it. People wanna experience life fully and if they wanna serve the military they will do it themselves not everyone wants to join the army or wanna be forced too. Forcing people to fight for the country isn't freedom, people fight for the country because they choose to, so forcing people won't help fix America. Please if you love freedom you won't force people to fight for it, you'll let them choose if they wanna fight.</p>
5/10/18	<p>A little bit about me so you understand my perspectiveâ€¦ I was introduced to service through my church as a child, in high school I joined a leadership development/service club with a local nonprofit in my town, and when I went to college, students were strongly encouraged to join on campus clubs and to serve their community. This was called the "coother education" and was messaged to be equally value to in-classroom learning. All of these experiences early in life created an ethic of service that has continued into adulthood.</p> <p>1. I think it's better to put the onus on leaders to make the case that the need to serve is there and let the people respond. When 9-11 happened the people responded, and I believe Americans would respond again if there was a need.</p> <p>4. I want to speak specifically about AmeriCorps since it's what I'm most familiar with. Increasing support at the end of the service term would be really helpful for people that choose to serve (especially for people coming to service straight out of college or those that have children to support). The living stipend isn't high enough to allow for people to save during their service term, and when it ends they are left in a precarious place if they haven't found employment. This incentivizes people to leave their service term early if they do secure a job. Specifically a cushion to extend childcare, healthcare, loan deferment, and/or stipends for a month or two after service would help.</p> <p>6. No, creating a culture that reinforces the value of service and leads to people choosing to serve is the more sustainable answer. It's a cultural shift that we need not a requirement.</p> <p>7. Experience at a young age is the key to lifelong engagement. I think one of the reasons AmeriCorps service is so successful in creating engaged citizens is that it creates an environment where 3 things happen: 1) people are exposed of needs that exist outside of themselves 2) they learn skills to address critical problems 3) they have an experience that shows they can make a difference. I think it's these things that lead AmeriCorps members to continue to serve beyond their year of service. Creating a service experience that recreates these 3 aspects for school age children might be an effective</p>

	<p>way to increase the propensity for young people to serve across their lifetime.</p> <p>I'm not sure if there is already research on this topic, but I would be interested to know at what point in development, young people are most susceptible to being impacted by a service experience. Let's say its 9th grade. I would recommend that 9th grade in the United States becomes the service year and every school integrates civic knowledge and service experiences into their curriculum during that year. I think it would be something students look forward to and something that everyone would have in common. I would encourage this to be a guided and designed experience rather than a requirement for students to get service hours completed on your own.</p>
5/11/18	<p>Generals: I hope this note is not too late. I have just heard that you are seeking opinions re the draft. I think it is important that a democracy has a citizens' armed forces. A professional armed forces is an insidious danger to America. It becomes a plaything in the hands of politicians. Every American, barring those with extreme disabilities, should serve his and her country, the United States. Robert Nowak</p>
5/11/18	<p>I am currently serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA in NH. I think if you make service mandatory, you devalue it and you won't recruit as hard-working, passionate people since it just because something they are forced to do, rather than want to do. I know plenty of people who want to help but can't. The barrier is simply money. I am fortunate enough to have parental support. If I didn't have their financial support, AmeriCorps would not have been an option. I currently make \$947 per month. The cheapest apartment I could find was \$500, with a roommate (also a VISTA), including heat and hot water. With the addition of electricity and internet, I spend roughly 2/3 of my monthly stipend on rent and utilities alone. I was always taught that you should only spend 1/3 of your monthly income on living. For that to be possible, I would be forced to live somewhere unsafe. The mission of VISTA is to alleviate poverty so why is it creating poverty among those who serve? This isn't a liveable stipend. If you want more people to be able to serve, it's as simple as making it possible to live on. Don't want to raise the stipend? Fine. Provide housing for members, give currently serving AmeriCorps members tax breaks (I had to pay taxes for the previous year amounting to what I pay in rent for a month, if my parents didn't help, I couldn't have paid for groceries), encourage all universities to become a matching institution in addition to other service scholarships, create additional, federal scholarships for currently serving members to apply to for future education, past loans, and for additional funds while serving (I know people who had to end service because their car got totaled and they needed money to pay for it - a grant to pay for that could have kept them in service), change food stamps so it's possible to get them (in NH you need less than \$3000 to your name so you're telling people who want to serve that they can't have savings if they want to eat or they have to use their savings to do so). To prevent burnout, people need stress relief, we</p>

	<p>need money to go do things - see a movie, go out to dinner every now and then, have money to go see our friends and family if we relocated. The stipend as it is doesn't encourage service, it prevents it. If it's do-able, and people know about it, it is a great opportunity.</p>
5/12/18	<p>Dear Commission Members, As a pacifist, and the mother of two teenage sons, I am adamantly opposed to mandatory registration for the Selective Service. I urge you to eliminate it entirely. By registering all men of military age, we are preparing for war. Instead, as a country, we should be doing all we can to protect peace. If mandatory registration is not eliminated, we must provide our sons with an option to register as conscientious objectors. By not allowing our sons to express their consciences, we are denying them a fundamental freedom. Kind regards, Cynthia Wachtell</p>
5/12/18	<p>Greetings, I would like to see the Commission end Selective Service Registration. If that is not possible then I would like to see a line on the registration form that would allow Conscientious Objectors to register as Conscientious Objectors! Thank you Randy Converse</p>
5/12/18	<p>The draft is involuntary servitude, prohibited, I believe, by the Constitution. It compels draftees to fight in illegal, immoral wars, thus making those wars possible. It should be ended. It should never have been restarted.</p>
5/13/18	<p>We over emphasize military service as the definition of national service. Non-military avenues of public and national service need to be afforded similar value and focus.</p>
5/14/18	<p>The first thing you need to do is concentrate a lot more on the forms of service that are about helping people, healing people, feeding the hungry, and making the world a more just place -- instead, when the government talks about "service" it's invariably a euphemism for learning how to kill people in other countries. Many Americans, especially young Americans, are incredibly inspired and eager to make the world a better place, but our current system twists and crushes that idealism by attempting to channel it into violence and destruction. If our country put as much money, effort, education, research, and propaganda into peace and justice as we do into violence, we could solve so many more of the issues that make the world unsafe. Threatening to bomb and invade other nations does not and can never make the USA safer, but being a beacon of justice and freedom in the world can. Therefore, abolish the military draft. Abolish the requirement that our young men put willingness to kill others as a higher priority than willingness to help others. Then we will actually see what amazing service our young men and women can perform.</p>
5/14/18	<p>I am deeply against continuation of a military draft. Since the 1990s we have been waging wars with the Middle East that have been declared to be humanitarian but, instead were wars to secure fossil fuel reserves and turn them over to corrupt corporations. Nothing was done for the citizens to ensure separation of church and state from their daily lives. Instead, they are a hotbed for extremism and understandably they are disgusted with American Foreign Policy. I am, as well.</p>

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5/14/18	<p>We currently have the most evil administration in many years. Bill Clinton is a disgrace and Hillary has aided and abetted a pedophile for years. We need a government that will not send our children off to fight useless wars, while using nepotism to enshrine their family as some kind of unofficial nobility. If destitute and struggling Americans are to send their children to fight endless wars for fossil fuels....which we burn in cars instead of saving for medicinal production.... Keeping the country on an I.V. of fossil fuels, while killing people in the Middle East to turn over oil fields to dirtier corporations IS NOT AN ETHICAL FOREIGN POLICY.</p>
5/15/18	<p>I think that people often serve because they need a job right out of high school, and there aren't any jobs with livable wages. A lot of kids join because members of their family have joined before them and still more join for the opportunity to gain a college education. However as jobs appear to be fleeing America, I'm not even sure a college education will help. I think the idea of the Peace Corps where Americans went into a mother nation in a friendly helpful way, helped to make America and Americans feel good about themselves and helped another nations to feel good about America too. Since 2003 though, many despair of America with it's 800 bases around the world and drones which kill anything that moves. So I think ancient history is helpful here, since we don't have an oracle at Delphi to ask, although we have a great many war hawks...however, I think that those who are hawks should suit up and go, otherwise their advice seems suspicious. H</p> <p>However, back to Delphi, when the richest man in the world Croesus asked the gods if he should fight Cyrus the Meade, the oracle answered 'If you do, a great nation will fall.' Sadly Croesus thought that meant Cyrus would fall.....sadly it was Croesus and his nation that did. Since America , at this time</p>

	seems much like Croesus, I would have to say that many in America sense this-----as America has been warring for the last 17 years, maybe it's time to make public service in helping our own nation, the primary concern.
5/15/18	Military service should be entirely voluntary
5/15/18	There should be no draft! As a Vietnam vet, I am sick of our Forever War and oppose any conscription of our citizens. If there is ever another draft, there can be no deferments for the rich and connected, but there should be no draft and NO WAR!
5/15/18	I do not support the draft. I have many friends who serve and have never heard any of them support imposing the draft. Why would we want a military force of people who do not want to be trained or serve. Wouldn't our tax dollars be better spent training the individuals who want to be there and finding other ways to protect our nation?
5/15/18	when the prospect to engage in active combat arises we are usually led to believe it's to protect foreign political rights or a weaker country's interests from a stronger one but, usually the truth is war for the profit of a few at the cost of lives of thousands & millions with capitalism falsely held up as the beacon of freedom when it is in fact the global tool of oppression both domestically & internationally
5/15/18	All Americans, young and old, should serve their country. We should have an army that fans out throughout the nation to repair infrastructure, teach valuable skills to the young, lend a helping hand to the elderly, do whatever is necessary that local tax dollars are not getting done. Such an army would be our pride and joy and an example to the rest of the world. It takes only a small shift in our consciousness to switch from a mindset of war and destruction to one of repairing the world.
5/15/18	BECAUSE NOBODY SHOULD EVER BE FORCED TO KILL FOR ALWAYS!!!
5/15/18	No draft 2020 - we don't need it!
5/15/18	Military indenture is part of the economic stranglehold on poor Americans. With no jobs available, young people in the US enlist to get some training and employment. The squashing of availability of higher education plays into this as well. And it is indentured servitude, only a half step up from slavery. We have a swollen, bloated military like a massive leach on the American economy, and distorting our views of the world and how it can work.

5/15/18	<p>The real problem - and the constant one, from conflict to conflict - is that we are being, & have always been, lied to about the real reasons for why we fight.</p> <p>Patriotism is a good thing, but there's a problem if it's based on untruths.</p> <p>I don't have an answer about how to fix this, since deception occurs at all levels.</p> <p>You might watch the series "False Flags" by Richard Dolan on gaia.com.</p> <p>Thank you for accepting comments.</p>
5/15/18	<p>I am 100% opposed to any war or warlike behaviors. I will not kill anyone.</p> <p>I will never support conscription to make our youth kill anyone or make their country devastated (like agent orange or burn pits).</p> <p>I will not accept the demonizing of any people's in order to make killing them less a horrible idea.</p>

	<p>America is an arrogant country and starts at least half the problems in the world.</p> <p>I would support a voluntary internal community service program to help our own people or infrastructure. Maybe I™d consider supporting a mandatory program for youth to serve peace projects at home.</p>
5/15/18	<p>I sat on a hillside on the Canadian border the summer of 1972, reading the lottery numbers and fearing I might get called up..and what I would do if I had. This was Vietnam---NOT World War II..If had been Hitler we were fighting, I would have volunteered, scared or not. But my older Brother was already in Vietnam & Cambodia and came home and told me I was NOT going to go. Hence my dilemma that summer. I was never sure exactly why we were there in the first place. A theme common through today. The last "appropriate" war we fought was the first Gulf War...and for Bosnia at least, there was a reason...and perhaps some good came out of it. The rest has been a miss use of our most precious of resources. Our own sons and daughters. You want people to join up? Make it a genuine profession. Don't draft folk who don't want to be there and give them a gun and expect them to be happy about it. Make it a real profession.. Train people to understand that the best war is the one you don't have to fight, but to be prepared so that people do NOT put you to that test!</p>
5/15/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes, military draft is necessary component of U.S. national security. 2. Selective service system should be abolished and replaced with mandatory conscription for all persons above the age of 19 in duration of 5-6 months for basic drill + handling of at least one electronic system (tracking equipment or firing weapon). 3. Participation can only be increased by eliminating the undue influence of military-industrial complex on national foreign policy. Immediate seizure of all military (miss)adventures in foreign

	<p>lands whether it is to fight "terrorism" or to enhance "democracy" or to secure buying of oil with fake "petro" dollars.</p> <p>4. The only barrier should be physical fitness of recruits.</p> <p>5. No military service has any inherent value and never will have. It is necessary evil.</p> <p>6. Mandatory service requirement is necessary and valuable as it equates rich and poor, black and white, tall and short, smart and not so smart. It is not subject to feasibility analysis.</p> <p>7. See number 3.</p>
5/15/18	<p>War, draft and compulsory service are abhorant. Only by raping the individual can these be justified. Humans are not naturally violent. Property and state identity are not normal but the result of indoctrination by overlords addicted to power. I for one refuse to take up arms against another. I have been imprisoned and beaten for my stance against armed forces. I would gladly die standing between combatants. I do not owe an allegiance to any state. My service to any government is voluntary. The draft is mental rape by the state always. War is always stater sponsored murder.</p>
5/15/18	<p>Peace is the only way to live.</p>

5/15/18	I have siblings, in laws, nephews who have chosen to serve in the military although not as a career. Many choose to serve because they were at a place in their lives where they did not know what to do next. What discourages people from serving and from those making it a career is the way the military is used in unjust and unnecessary military actions. To have more young Americans serve find a way to have the children of the upper classes serve. Now those killed in the service are mainly those who come from the lower classes and are disproportionately people of color. Clearly public service must not be a value for the upper classes of society. If Congress votes to support any military action, it should be on the condition that their children and grandchildren serve - and not in "safe" positions.
5/15/18	I believe that the United States should institute a mandatory year of service for all young people- male and female - which could be fulfilled in many venues, including the military. Many non-profit charities could use these people, as well as government and international agencies, like the Peace Corps and UNICEF. Exceptions might be made for extreme hardship or commitment to medical education, but everyone would have to contribute to the common good and learn about life outside of one's own experience.
5/15/18	For far too long our young people have been sent to war, to kill, not to defend the American people but to defend the interests of the rich. t is NOT JUST and MORALLY wrong!
5/15/18	I am in favour of a mandatory service requirement, if the service is not military. Earthquake relief, post tsunami infrastructure rebuilding, public works, these are services to humanity, war is not.
5/15/18	All wars, except those that are strictly defensive, all illegal under international law. The US has not waged a defensive war since 1812 and is not likely do so so in the future. US wars are illegal wars of aggression, therefore I am completely against the draft. It is immoral to force young people to do illegal things, especially to kill other human beings.
5/15/18	As an antiwar activist, I do believe that involuntary conscription is no longer necessary for modern warfare (i.e. illegal wars of choice). As an alternative, I would suggest offering teenagers and young adults community service doing something much more beneficial than killing enemies.
5/15/18	The draft should be abolished and the department of defense changed into the department of peace. We will never have peace in the world as long as all we do is prepare for the next war. War is murder on a vast state sponsored scale. The human race should begin to evolve from a violence based solution to all problems and strengthen the UN.
5/15/18	I support conscientious objectors, but otherwise regret ending the draft after Viet Nam, an action I supported at the time. It bothers me that so few families are affected by our endless wars which I think makes our leaders more willing to go to war It also worries me that serving in the military is the best way out of poverty for so many. The incentives and options are out of balance. It should be a shared burden by all citizens.

5/15/18	<p>1. A military draft is the antithesis of a democratic society. As such, it is not and never has been a necessary component of national security. National security must be seen as a component of global security which is based on social justice and acknowledgement of universal human rights.</p> <p>2. Yes, selective service should be a positive social force for the U.S. and the world and as such should be reframed as a program that provides aid, education, health services, critical infrastructure, etc for those who need it in the U.S. and across the world.</p> <p>3. The US needs to stop glorifying militarism, which does not produce any positive outcomes and drains our country's resources for the benefit of a few corporate capitalists while destroying people's lives, health, livelihoods, ecology and environment. To increase participation in national and public service, we have to remove money from politics, which has poisoned our democracy whereby our government answers to corporate lobbyists and not the will of the people. Once people regain trust in our government then incentives of the benefits of service can be discussed and voted on.</p> <p>4. Barriers to military service are obvious. War is organized murder and human beings are not naturally inclined to kill each other, and generally sustain deep moral injury in doing so. The US military has carefully designed training and indoctrination programs to dehumanize potential "enemies" to enable the killing to be done. Notably, the experience in WWI was that a relatively small percentage of soldiers would actually shoot to kill and so the training was successfully refined to improve that percentage. The incentives for military service is the bribery of a living wage, free healthcare, and free college education, things that a majority of Americans do not have. The barriers to public service are lack of actual programs, lack of incentives like good wages, free healthcare and free college and the fact that \$1.2 trillion dollars are funneled to the destructive enterprise of the military industry instead of to productive and socially beneficial programs.</p> <p>5. The euphemism "military service", which is used to described organized murder has no inherent value whatever and instead is damages our economy, ecology, environment, health and moral wellbeing. Actual public service has huge benefits because the efforts that individuals take to help others builds social connectivity and togetherness while helping individuals in need.</p> <p>6. Mandatory service is anti-democratic and in violation of the foundational freedoms described in the US Declaration of Independence and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Mandatory service requirement is neither necessary or valuable.</p> <p>7. To increase the propensity of young Americans to serve, our government must become responsive to the needs of the people, regain the trust of the people and reform the military programs into socially beneficial programs like universal healthcare, UBI, etc.</p>
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5/15/18	<p>The U.S. military no longer has any honor, nor does it provide any "service", either to the United States or the world. Criminal politicians handing down illegal orders have denied our military the dignity it may once have enjoyed. The U.S. military is now just a "thug for capitalism", as 3-star General USMC Smedley Butler once described his career. "War is a Racket", the title of an article written by Gen. Butler, sums up the current state of the military now. All those considering lining up and signing up for the biggest gang of "uniformed assassins" (Mark Twain) are warned that, according to the Nuremberg Accords, those who pull the triggers are just as guilty as those who order triggers to be pulled. A criminal war criminalizes all who participate at every level, including deluded taxpayers who blithely go along with decades-long slaughter, which the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff have publicly stated causes more "terrorism", not less, and consequently makes the U.S. less secure, not more.</p> <p>FRAUD, coming and going.</p>
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5/15/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. No one should have to serve in the military against their will and we have proven it is unnecessary 2. We need to take better CARE of our military personnel and veterans, Privatization of the Veterans Affairs and hospitals is a mistake and many veterans who are injured could be better utilized in this vast system. Do not privatize the VA. 3. Active duty military families should have all their medical needs taken care of at the expense of the country and families need better all around support. 4. Barriers to the military are many. It is a personal sacrifice. They should be paid well enough to be able to live off bases if they have a family, especially if they are career. We shouldn't have veterans who are mentally or physically injured who are homeless. 5. My belief is the military is being overused for wars that cannot be won, ever and none of these countries attacked the US. Of course, there is a value to having a good military but in case we are under attack or feel an attack is imminent not for political gain at home, or the money and investments of military contractors. The military should be deprivatized. Since the military has been privatized, we have had nothing but constant war. Common sense says if there is a lot of money to be made off war and the corporations are providing all supplies and services, we are always going to be at war. 6. No. Mandatory service requirements are not needed, provide better benefits, pay more for their college educations after they get out and afford veterans who have mental or physical injuries from wars better benefits. 7. Better pay. Better benefits. More family support for those with dependents and career personnel. Deprivatize the military. Corporations only want to cut corners. The Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines took very good care of themselves for decades, now we pay three times more for all goods and services. If we did this, we could afford to pay personnel better and wouldn't need them in fighting positions for so long. There would be MORE
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	<p>support jobs and it would all cost less in the overall picture. Soldiers shouldn't have to ride a bus for an hour to get to a mess hall. I know this happens, my son was career Army.</p> <p>Corporations run this country, as long as they are providing supplies and services for the military, this country will be at war with SOMEONE.</p>
5/15/18	All CEO's must take only minimum wage during any war, declared or otherwise, and all elected persons must send their sons and daughters BEFORE anyone else is required to serve! NO MORE WARS!
5/15/18	We lived in London and my brother went to prison in WW2 rather than kill people. He spent 6 mths in Holloway Gaol and then dug ditches when he was let out. That didn't prevent him from becoming a composer of film music and 4 symphonies; his name is James Stevens, Our father served in WW1 in the trenches but he supported his son's decision. I was 14 when war broke our and left school at 16. I had a variety of jobs including Land Girl before getting a scholarship to Goldsmith's College which was evacuated to Nottingham. I am a pacifist. Service to your country is necessary but there must be alternatives to military service. I do not agree with#1, #2 thru 7 are valid and need much thought and work.
5/15/18	An individual who believes themselves to be unable to take a life in war may well be an individual who will help build a world motivated toward peace. We need to respect that possibility.
5/15/18	<p>Thou shall not kill, is inborn in humans. Growing up, this innate sense can be disturbed and sometimes warped. When disturbed, people are able to overcome this sense and kill when convinced that killing is necessary "for a greater good". Such a person, however, will lose a lot in terms of his/her humanity.</p> <p>When warped, this person has lost all sense of humanity and actually enjoys or needs to kill, maim, or hurt other human beings.</p>

	<p>Forcing a person to kill another is the worst crime against humanity. Conscientious objectors must be respected.</p> <p>No country is stronger than a country, whose residents are strong, well educated, well fed and healthy. They will stand as the strongest barrier against any enemy.</p>
5/16/18	<p>Please modify the selective service system to allow for conscientious objector status without young men jumping through hoops to attain that status. Young men, 18 and older, could do public service instead. CO status shouldn't deter a young man from getting student aid, loans, or government employment. This country is already too militarized. Don't make it moreso.</p>
5/16/18	<p>A military draft is a necessary component of U.S. national security.</p> <p>Modifications to the selective service system need to include no exceptions to the draft 100% they all don't have to fight in wars but they need to participate in national service the best way they can.</p> <p>How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? The answer above, no exceptions to the draft would satisfy this request</p> <p>What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service?</p> <p>Barriers to the military is that we are in a constant state of war, and we recruit mostly from those who have few options but join the military</p> <p>We are all part of the same community builds an esprit de corps</p> <p>Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible?</p>

	<p>Yes, Yes as long as it is fully inclusive and fair.</p> <p>How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? See comments above,</p>
5/16/18	It is our moral duty to resist participating in unjust wars waged primarily for profit at the expense of weaker and powerless people.
5/16/18	<p>There is no way to sustain America's international military footprint without a draft. Young men are required to register for the draft, so why is the government afraid to institute one? Probably because they fear sparking an uprising. As long as nobody has to know anyone getting killed in one of America's wars of choice it's OK to continue them. (That is, nobody who matters, like white people, especially rich ones) The military keeps using "stop loss" to prevent people who enlisted from finishing their service, sending them back to combat 5 or 6 times or more. The military keeps lowering their standards to get enough fresh bodies to send into combat, people they would have rejected as unfit a year or two ago. Then when there is a problem they can give a less than honorable discharge because that person should never have been admitted to the military. And how many mercenary "contractors" are there fighting America's wars of choice because the military can not attract enough volunteers?</p> <p>A mandatory national service requirement for all Americans could be a good thing if there are non-military options for service, such as entities like Volunteers of America. Mandatory military service like they have in Israel would be another huge negative.</p>
5/16/18	No American should be forced to kill another human being to benefit a for profit corporation or other war profiteers. We have not had a war that was a threat to our national security since the bombing of Pearl Harbor. All have been to profit the military industrial complex & the fossil fuel industries. These are crimes against humanity & should be recognized as such.
5/17/18	Start in elementary schools. Older students can read to younger students before or after school. Or help with homework. Start in public and private schools.
5/17/18	(1) Students need a "carrot" to volunteer. (2) They are rewarded 100-fold. (3) Great sense of self; empowering. (4) Contact high school counselors in every city. (5) Educator weekends on base will help counselors refer without fear of sending children off to the military/slaughter.
5/17/18	No. Killing, which the military teaches, should not be required. Remove weapons/WMD. Teach Tai chi, Qigong, yoga. Remove weapons, the military, and killing with WMD. Weapons of mass destruction and genocide. Education; health care; reversing racism, classism, and sexism. No not unless you want

	society to explode with demonstrators. Stop loss, turning them into killers, hiring them by the police that shoot down minorities and women. Drone killing bombing.
5/17/18	One challenge that the Commission faces is to deal with two views about women in the military. One is that keeping military women from combat zones and combat assignment is a form of job discrimination. The other is that putting women in danger in these ways is a cowardly form of abuse. These views have implications for whether both women and men volunteer to join the military. I already have written to the Commission about evangelical Christian denominations that have studies expressing concern about sending women into danger and into combat. These denominations include about 7%-10% of the people in the United States. I have the web addresses for the studies with me today. I believe that some Orthodox Jewish groups and Muslim groups have similar concerns. Knowing how the Commission should respond to such concerns is challenging. I see several possible responses, each with limitations. For example, the Defense Department could update conscientious objection policy (DoDI 1300.06) to explicitly include military people who come to believe that women should not be sent into danger. The Academies and War Colleges could train officers to support people who chose to join the military when they were quite young, but who later come to question military policy about women after learning about issues raised in the denomination studies. Routinely providing information about these studies to evangelical girls and young women being recruited into the military and into military-supported programs like JROTC could be part of the informed consent procedure. A form of military support branch could be designed that allows participants to remain in the U.S. with no risk of overseas assignments. Such alternatives could provide starting points for conversation. I have done human resources projects with the military, am an established scholar in the field of international culture diversity and have worked with Chaplain Endorsers and religious leaders on matters related to women in the military. I would be glad to consider assisting the Commission on such topics.
5/17/18	If there is to be any service draft, it must contain the option to do peaceful national service. Vietnam taught us some terrible lessons. #1 was "never again." When the rich make war to profit off it, and send the poor to fight it and die, there is something inherently unAmerican about that. There are plenty of ways young people could honorably serve our country without participating in the military. Just ask our current president* about that if you want proof. Thank you, The Rev. Dr. Edward Kern (ELCA)
5/17/18	DRAFT THE ONE PERCENTERS WHO ALWAYS GET OFF OF MILITARY SERVICE I.E. TRUMP ETAL BECAUSE OF MONEY, POWER, CONNECTIONS
5/17/18	Hiya, I am really glad I have found this information. Nowadays bloggers publish just about gossips and web and this is really annoying. A good blog with interesting content, that is what I need. Thanks for keeping this website, I'll be visiting it. Do you do newsletters? Can not find it. aaeedgkkacgc
5/17/18	Your weblog is 1 of a kind, i really like the way you organize the topics. dfdcggbdbckd
5/17/18	As a member of the AmeriCorps many of our fellow corps members have struggled financially while attempting to serve the underserved, underrepresented, and low income communities. Many of us have college degrees and take a huge pay cut when committing to this program. We live below the poverty line in many states and our stipends get taxed so we don't even make 1,000 a month. You have to take in account that we serve about 42 hours a week, so it's nearly impossible to get side job and we do have other essential bills besides rent. Most AmeriCorps programs don't even provide housing or relocation assistance. At this point in my service term I would not recommend the AmeriCorps, unless you have parental support and many of us don't. Stability is why many choose not to serve in this sector of government, especially when the majority have some type of secondary education.
5/17/18	It is time to end the draft and registration for same. Please do so. Thank you.

5/18/18	America should be like a majority of nations in the world and have compulsory National Service for every citizen. It doesn't have to be military. It can be social service, Park service, child care. Anything to help pay our government for our life. There is job for everyone.
5/18/18	is the comment period over?
5/18/18	<p>America not only needs to protect every border from drug runners, but also terrorist who are making a mockery of our freedom. For those that enter our borders illegally, I feel they need to be the first to be drafted. They, then, can learn our language, as well our values and pride each and every American should feel. And for the (citizens) that continue to run drugs and guns, they should be drafted also. If they continue to destroy our great country apart from the inside, they must serve to learn better. Find those that are serving lesser crimes in prison, rotting away what might be a brilliant mind, perhaps give them an option of enlistment.</p> <p>While it needn't be about the money, we should encourage the employers of bigger corporations to hire the Vets first, and foremost.</p> <p>I respect the United States of America. I love my country, and we must up the ante to protect on our own soil, as well, on foreign land. The creeps that are shooting up our mom and pop businesses have to be stopped or exiled. I say bring back the death penalty, or enlist them, with no pay in an eight year, hard-core, butt-kicking boot-camp, and if that isn't good enough, then use the death penalty for what it was brought about to be used for. Death.</p> <p>Thank You. God Bless You All. May God bless the United States of America.</p>
5/18/18	<p>I do not feel that I draft is completely necessary, even if a war were to break out. There seems to be plenty of people willing to go to war for our country. I for one do not believe every person of age should be drafted because some people would not be a benefit in the we environment. You would basically be sending some people out to die because they would not be able to work/perform in such a high stress situation. And also, if you were to draft all people of age, how would our country continue to grow? If men and women were to be drafted it might easily lead to the end of our growing country and what would our soldiers be coming home to? I do not feel a draft is necessary nor do I think women should have to register for a draft. If that were to happen, what if a husband and wife were to both get drafted into the war, what would happen to children if not family members were alive or home? Please consider the effect that would happen to our future generations. I feel there are enough people that would volunteer if needed. Or already have volunteered. Thank you.</p>
5/18/18	<p>This country needs Compulsory National Service for everyone that is able. Two years active duty military service followed by two years active reserve and then two years inactive reserves. Don't like being drafted? Volunteer for three years active duty followed one year active reserve.</p> <p>Military service instills discipline and self worth. It's makes boys and girls into men and women. People refuse military service can be conscientious objectors and do a military job without weapons. The last few generations have had more of the me, me, me syndrome and the "I don't owe anyone, anything". Everyone living in this country owes this country, and God for putting them here.</p>

5/18/18	<p>Mandatory service as in the draft should be brought back. It is not fair to these guys and girls having to do multiple tours. That is hard on a person and not right that we have young folks here that could use some discipline. I'm glad I went into Army cause it kept me out of jail and taught me to respect other people and property. I was lucky even though I was in Germany and volunteered for Vietnam! I only had to do one year unlike the folks today.</p> <p>If we can't have a draft then the young people today should have to make a choice either go in service or have a life time having to pay some form of higher tax rate to help pay for others. I know later that they would regret making that decision but it should be for lifetime. If they are old enough to do service then they are old enough to make that decision. We all should know that today's youth needs something other than sitting home on computer or out getting in trouble.</p> <p>It will make them a better person all around.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
5/18/18	<p>There must be a contingency for people to serve their country in ways that do not violate their moral obligation not to be involved in the taking of human life. It is not a conflict to hold this moral obligation and wish to support one's country. The military solution to conflict is only one way to resolve conflict; there is no rational reason to require one to participate in it if they are willing to participate in other ways of resolving conflict the US has with other nations. Abortion is legal, yet we do not require that anyone who does not wish to do so be involved in this taking of life.</p> <p>If the US is having a difficult time finding enough people to do its killing, maybe our time and money would be better spent investing in other ways of resolving conflict and keeping the peace.</p>
5/18/18	<p>One major benefit to the draft is the exposure of American citizens to the realities of the life style led by people of other countries. Without the draft, most Americans perception of other countries is gained by journalistic presentations usually involving newsworthy, i.e., upperclass, citizens of other countries or by vacation experiences that are a subset of reality and often tailored to provide enjoyment. This narrow exposure contributes heavily to the current lack of appreciation about how high our quality of life is above most other countries. For example consider our American dwelling size, be it apartment or house, to that of England or France or Germany or Australia, much less to Korea or Japan or China or Mexico or Brazil. The draft helps reduce our general American ignorance about other parts of the world.</p>

5/20/18	<p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>First let me introduce myself. I'm not a vet due to a compound fracture , keep my out. Later in life I was able to serve in the USAF-AUX-CAP , sense 1995 and counting! I also served with the Mass State Guard 2004-2008.</p> <p>NRA firearm instructor and certified firearm instructor from the State Police.</p> <p>Now, let me say, just look at Switzerland, everyone go into service and they have never been invaded. It teaches youths morals , customs, courtesy, self respect for themselves and for others. Something to live for , to be part of something bigger than themselves. To make a difference and to grow into a good citizen. Gives them a chance to become a leader and much more than I can say!</p> <p>YES to a draft for all!</p>
5/21/18	<p>I do not believe the military draft is still a necessary component of U.S. national defense because of the advancement of technology. War in the 20th century has been fought differently. Additionally, I do not believe it is ethically correct to force someone to serve against there will. Service, not exclusive to military, is valuable in my opinion, but I believe it begins to lose value when it is something forced among everybody.</p> <p>I wish to not serve because, although I respect those who do, it is simple not my cup of tea, as I do not believe in war or violence in any way.</p>
5/21/18	<p>I do not believe the military draft is still a necessary component of U.S. national defense because of the advancement of technology. War in the 20th century has been fought differently. Additionally, I do not believe it is ethically correct to force someone to serve against there will. Service, not exclusive to military, is valuable in my opinion, but I believe it begins to lose value when it is something forced among everybody.</p> <p>I wish to not serve because, although I respect those who do, it is simple not my cup of tea, as I do not believe in war or violence in any way.</p>
5/21/18	<p>Additionally, I do not believe a draft is useful in modern scenarios, and believe that a large number of people forced to be in the military against there will will negatively affect the military's effectiveness and performance. I believe the high morale comes from those willingly volunteering to serve, and not those forced to be there.</p>

5/21/18	There should be no draft or draft contingency in this country. Likewise, there should not be any mandatory service requirement for all Americans. Young people should be free to chose their own paths. Young people I know are quite service oriented; they simply don't choose to perform their service under government auspices. If we want young people to serve in government programs, those programs should be truly public service, and most of them should have nothing to do with the military, or with the security apparatus. Even in the military services, the focus should be on "service," not "military." As it is, the military is a repressive force in an astounding and ever-increasing number of countries. It is being used in ways that undermine the long-range best interests of this country rather than further them, and young people are right to shun military service in large numbers. Most public service programs should be completely separate and distinct from military or "security" options. If we want young people to participate in government programs, we should forgive any and all student debts for those who have been to college, and offer paths to college for those who have not. We should be investing in their future, which is the future of our country. We should provide lifetime health coverage for all service volunteers, and for those who choose the military, we should fully fund all post-service needs of those who experience both physical and emotional trauma during their service.
5/21/18	The draft is inefficient to mandate in modern times and should be abolished. People in the military on a voluntary basis should perform better. That being said, I am not open to serving the public for a greater good, but personally, not in a way that involves the military or violence of any form.
5/22/18	The "draft," the forced recruitment of soldiers for the purpose of war, is immoral, unnecessary, and unlawful. Forcing individuals to "serve" their country by killing other human beings is simply wrong, and serves no useful purpose. (See: Vietnam) Thus, forcing individuals, whether male or female, to register for a draft, as we have done since the 80's despite there being no actual draft, is senseless and an invasion of the rights and privacy of our citizens. Registration should stop immediately. If the United States government needs to increase volunteerism for war, or any other purpose, it needs to clearly demonstrate an actual need for such assistance. If it is unable to demonstrate such necessity, one must then assume there is none. The largest barrier to a voluntary military is the obvious: one may be killed in "service" to a corrupt government or president. To call military participation "service," at this point in time, when it has been demonstrated again and again that the only benefit of war is to war profiteers, is a degradation of the word. Call it what it is: forced poverty conscription. A mandatory "service" requirement for all Americans, on the surface, seems to make more sense. However, once again it is obvious that there are many individuals who are serving America, as volunteers, and making that more attractive by offering incentives will solve any recruitment difficulties. (See: Volunteers of America, The Peace Corps) If you wish to increase the numbers of young people volunteering, give them something worthwhile in exchange. (It is not worthwhile to offer the chance to die, while having had one's individuality and humanity damaged by "basic training," followed by being discarded after usefulness is ended. See: current status of veterans) Sincerely, David M. Laws Proud War Resistor since 1967
5/22/18	Draft, yes! Military draft, no! = public service NOT related to “resource grabbing,” “influence expansion,” “empire building,(no less the Empire State Building” or World Trade Towers), “regime support” (for greed!), family real estate expansion, personal/group/state wealth increase, display of the flag, “training for democracy” vis a vis “become a trade partner/vassal”, ——FOR CARE FOR/OF PEOPLE IN NEED, HURT, WOUNDED, STRANDED, THREATENED, DECIMATED BY STORMS, SHARING SPECIFIED CULTURE/LANGUAGE (in the AFS model)——our love, Dave and Louise Ransom
5/22/18	I feel it is time to end all registration for military service. We must embark on a policy of initiating our own desire to create peace in the world. There is no better way than for us to start an international campaign to end all military operations. The only security we can have is when we all learn to live in peace in this world.

5/22/18	The only way I would be in favor of a draft is if the time in the service was actually in service to our country and not being used as fodder for unnecessary wars.
5/22/18	<p>It's time to end military draft registration once and for all.</p> <p>Don't expand the draft to women. End it for everyone.</p> <p>National service must not be linked to the military or to immigration enforcement.</p> <p>Unless and until the US domestic territory is invaded by a foreign power, stop pretending that the draft is about anything other than empire.</p>
5/22/18	Don't expand the draft to women, end it for everyone. Unless the US is invaded by a foreign power, pretending that the draft is about anything other than empire is just absurd and makes our country look weaker rather than stronger. The draft has only caused our country more problems in the long run rather than solved, and frankly should not be necessary in 2018 or future years to come.
5/22/18	Seems unnecessary unless we are at war defending our country.
5/22/18	If the draft is to continue it must be expanded to include all genders. Additionally, its only use has ever been for politicians to fight worthless, unpopular wars such as the Vietnam conflict. It is doubtful that a draft would be needed to protect the United States were a super power to make a move against us like the Axis did in WWII. If China or Russia were to attack the United States, it is likely enough Americans would voluntarily serve to defend the country—or at least this possibility should be researched and understood—would public sentiments in the event of a super power attack on us raise the ranks enough to defend our shores?—I think so. Then again, is any country whose people won't *voluntarily* defend it, worth saving?
5/22/18	<p>It's time to end draft registration once and for all.</p> <p>Don't expand the draft to women. End it for everyone.</p> <p>No national service linked to the military--including immigration enforcement.</p> <p>Until the US is invaded by a foreign power, stop pretending that the draft is about anything other than empire.</p>
5/22/18	Mandatory service only creates resentment. Not a good beginning of any relationship.
5/22/18	Stick your draft up your disgusting ass.

5/22/18	<p>It's time to end draft registration once and for all.</p> <p>Don't expand the draft to women. End it for everyone.</p> <p>No national service linked to the military--including immigration enforcement.</p> <p>Until the US is invaded by a foreign power, stop pretending that the draft is about anything other than empire.</p>
5/22/18	<p>Aloha,</p> <p>I strongly support men and women having the choice of what wars, if any, they are willing to fight in and lose their lives over.</p> <p>a draft seems necessary only in times of extreme threat in wars that are APPROVED BY BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS, not just the president.</p> <p>there should be no barriers to those who'd like to serve their country despite race, gender, or sexual orientation.</p> <p>however, children should NOT be recruited in feel-good presentations at local middle and high schools. the choice to give one's life for one's country isn't one that a young person is equipped to make especially when presented as an opportunity for education when they may be killed before they get to go back to school whether it be in battle or later in life by toxic chemicals used in war (like Agent Orange).</p> <p>I don't feel that a mandatory requirement to serve the military is necessary nor is it valuable to most, yet the "opportunity" to serve is often portrayed as being --and actually often is -- the only option for low income young people, especially those of color. Society is letting those young people down. Two wrongs don't make a right.</p> <p>to serve one's country one needs to feel proud of their country. When they have no trust in the President and other leaders, their will to protect our nation is understandably dampened. That, I feel strongly, is exactly what's happening to our nation, military and young people today.</p>

	<p>thank you for this opportunity to comment on this important question.</p> <p>sincerely</p> <p>janice Palma-glennie</p> <p>kailua-kona, hi</p>
5/22/18	don't prepare for war, prepare for peace. it's the only sane option.
5/22/18	if you do return the draft, the rich should go first.
5/22/18	<p>i am against the draft, but, if there must be a service requirement, i think there should be options....either military, or humanitarian - like serving in the peace corps instead of, say, the army.</p> <p>i would prefer having people who want to serve rather than those who are forced into it.</p>
5/22/18	There is the problem that the current draft registration, but no draft means that the military has become completely class-based which it wasn't before Nixon ended it. With middle and upper-class families not having their children serve except as officers, most people have become indifferent to those who actually do the fighting because they represent the poorest and least educated citizens. I don't support war, but I also don't support a class-based military.
5/22/18	It is time to end the draft for everyone. Unless the USA is invaded by a foreign power, stop pretending that our military draft is about anything other than imperialism. Our federal government does NOT have the right to force me to participate in this unconscionable activity in any way, nor to dictate a particular type of work for me to do even if just for a few years. That needs to apply to ending the draft also.
5/22/18	It's time to end draft registration once and for all. Don't expand the draft to women. End it for everyone. Until the US is invaded by a foreign power, stop pretending that the draft is about anything other than empire.

5/22/18	<p>Abolish the draft.</p> <p>The military is at best a necessary evil. The only justification for creating and keeping a military is the existence of a threat that has to be met by defensive force. Even if such a threat exists, thus requiring a military, the size and power of the military must be kept to the minimum required to meet the threat, for the military itself is a threat to peace, democracy, civil values and human dignity.</p> <p>The draft increases the power of the military despite having no reason in modern day reality. It must therefore be abolished as a safeguard to our way of life and our values.</p>
5/22/18	<p>Some people cannot compartmentalize murder or killing no matter what the reason; even if to supposedly defend themselves. Others can rationalize such action and can live with themselves after killing another human being. We do not get to judge another persons psychological make up. But when someone knows they cannot in good conscience kill another; they will most likely suffer profound trauma to their psyche if forced to kill. They may in turn commit suicide or murder their family due to the PTSD. No one has the right to force anyone to kill. Being forced to join the military automatically means there is a chance you'll wind up in combat; therefore you may be forced to murder on command. If we don't want rapists and murderers roaming our society then why breed them in the first place? Think of your daughter, mother, sister, wife, grandmother, aunt, etc.</p>
5/22/18	<p>The draft is nothing but a way to enable our government to pursue it's course of endless war. We need to stop now. We have over 1000 military bases worldwide and for what? Who is attacking us? How many countries are we at war with? None! The military industrial complex wants us to provide young men and women to fuel this endless, fruitless war with everyone. We spend more than the next 10 nations worldwide on our military. Why oh why would it have to be larger and even more expansive than it is now. We need to reduce the size of our military, bring our sons and daughters home from conflicts we have no business supporting and provoking. Theater of the absurd. End the draft, stop participating in terror and start concentrating on peace.</p>
5/22/18	<p>The military draft is an antiquated concept that needs to be retired. A volunteer military is far superior to attempting to force military service on Americans; a reluctant soldier is not as dependable as a volunteer soldier! For national security purposes, should it become necessary, the draft could, in the day of the computer and smart phone, easily be reinstated. Until necessary, it should be retired.</p>
5/22/18	<p>Serving in the military needs to be voluntary because it can be a matter of life and death and must be a personal choice. Also, not everyone subscribes to military solutions to conflicts and would rather serve their community developing other ways of dealing with conflict, for example: nonviolent</p>

	conflict resolution and restorative justice. In a free land, each person must decide whether he or she wants to go to war, to kill others and possibly be seriously injured or even die.
5/22/18	Do not want to see one more drop of blood spilled for the military industrial complex and it's profiteers!
5/22/18	I am a WWII vet who did not wait to be drafted and I think the War Department was what it was called, frankly and more honestly than in the era of the Cold War and the Korean War when it was falsely renamed the Defence Dept. I say falsely because none of the many wars following WWII were wars to defend the territory of the United States from foreign attack or invasion. So long as the government uses as a pretext "National security" and keeps secret their plans for war (Panama, Nicaragua, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria), not involving an attack by a foreign power, citizens will not rush to enlist, as was the case after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Also, Pres. F. D. Roosevelt did not declare war unilaterally; Congress voted it first, according to our Constitution. Those are the sine qua non conditions for a true citizen's army.
5/22/18	End the draft!!!!
5/22/18	I am a veteran of the US Army, when I joined I was a kid not even out of high school, so I had no idea what I was committing myself to. My service has benefited me, healthcare and other benefits, but I'm not sure if I would do it in the present conditions. I have two sons now and I don't want them to serve. The reason for this is that the government got us into a war in the Middle East under false pretenses. Until the US government gets us out of this endless war, I don't think the military is a good opportunity. I think that it's good for young people to serve in some kind of way to better our society, but forcing them into the armed forces is not a good idea. There will always be poor under educated individuals that will want to join the military, but until the government is honest with it's people, it will be hard to find quality individuals that want to serve.
5/22/18	It's time to end draft registration once and for all. Don't expand the draft to women. End it for everyone.
5/22/18	The US will seemingly never end military involvement; it is too profitable. Therefore, our young people should not be enslaved by draft let alone conscription. End the war racket!
5/22/18	It's time to end draft registration once and for all--unjust, profit-seeking U.S. wars are an affront to the human race and, thus, neither warrant nor deserve the antiquated U.S. 'draft' law! Also, no national service linked to military--including immigration enforcement! Until the U.S. is invaded by a foreign power, STOP PRETENDING the draft is about anything other than Trump's RACIST, XENOPHOBIC empire!!!
5/22/18	Unless the United States is under attack, drafting for wars that the US does not need to be in, invading sovereign nations, and occupying oil rich countries is just wrong. Please stop an unnecessary draft.

5/22/18	<p>It's time to end draft registration once and for all.</p> <p>Don't expand the draft to women. End it for everyone.</p> <p>No national service linked to the military--including immigration enforcement.</p> <p>Until the US is invaded by a foreign power, stop pretending that the draft is about anything other than empire.</p>
5/22/18	<p>Yes, I believe we should have a universal draft. But we do not. Therefore, there is no point in having the requirement to register. It is a requirement without purpose. I am a veteran and have served on my local draft board. I still believe that the country is best served by having a citizenry that participates in some form of required service to our country. We do not have that and that lack is harming our nation.</p>
5/22/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft, No, but 100% military service, Yes. Like Switzerland and formally France. 2. Yes, 100% of adult population should receive military training. Everyone should be able to march and fire a rifle. 3. Through the requirement that ALL must receive military training. 4. None 5. Yes, health and discipline plus quick reaction to a threat. 6. Yes, yes, yes.

	7. By requiring it for all; perhaps as a final stage of High School prior to graduation.
5/22/18	End the Draft. It serves only the Warmongers ...not my country and Certainly Not our young men and women that you seem so willing to sacrifice for your own means.
5/22/18	Military Service should be a choice. NO DRAFT better yet, no reasons to have a military.
5/22/18	<p>As a long-time Scoutmaster, I have seen the value of service and the satisfaction that comes from both the beneficial work and the freely chosen commitment to be of service. As an admirer of our nation's founding principles, I reject any kind of involuntary servitude.</p> <p>Young people must be encouraged to volunteer in service to our communities and be accorded trust and respect that they are responsible for making good choices. Rather than maintain an undemocratic Selective Service System, we must develop service opportunities that attract volunteers. This will succeed if the programs are</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) useful, productive, and of obvious benefit 2) challenging, making participants stretch beyond their "comfort zones" 3) educational, offering training that opens vistas of possibilities for one's life-work. <p>Thank you for seeking input on this critically important policy decision.</p>
5/22/18	No draft, no war!

5/22/18	End the registration for the draft. It's not needed and is counter productive to our efforts for a more peaceful world.
5/22/18	If the U.S. would combine its military branches into a single force, dropping the overlap and redundancy, it could establish positions for which young people would compete, rather than relying upon the threat of selective service or poverty draft. Creative and constructive projects to help people instead of kill them would attract young persons with character and vision, once we confess that wars are not only stupid but no longer offer opportunity for victory. The draft is obsolete, and maintaining our system is a total waste. As a combat veteran, I suggest putting your energy into ending war as the default foreign policy of the U.S.
5/22/18	I believe we must continue the draft. We only use the draft in time of war. I would take to long to reestablish the draft if needed.
5/22/18	As a SSS registrant with CO status, but one who managed to avoid conscription, I feel strongly that no one should be required to register for a military draft!
5/22/18	Please use the draft in modified form: All males (not females) at age 18 should be required to serve one year in the military. The is would insure that there would be enough discipline for later service in the military if needed.
5/22/18	It's time to end draft registration once and for all. Instead of expanding it to women, end it for everyone. We have become a nation grounded in violence, war and empire-building, and that is anathema to our humanity and to the best interests of our children.
5/22/18	Mandatory Selective Service Registration for military service for young men should end immediately. If service is required, then one should be able to choose the type of service they are willing to perform - combat, non-combat, civil service, public service, etc. Public service absolutely has value for the person performing the service and the country overall. Done right, public service offers the opportunity to learn value, responsibility, stewardship, ethics, compassion and many other things I am forgetting through selfless hard work for others. This service can be grooming trails in National Parks; cleaning up after festivals/parades; serving homeless, etc. It does not need to be associated with the military. We have plenty of need in this country. Barriers to public service are lack of affordable housing while serving; lack of liveable stipend while serving; crumbling education systems, etc. To increase the desire of Young Americans to serve, look no further than Eagle Rock School in Estes Park, CO - a National Service Learning school. They have the answers!
5/22/18	There is no need for a draft. People fighting against their will do not good soldiers make. What will help national security are policies that do not have, at their core, racism or profit above all else, and a military that does not tolerate homophobia, transphobia, or sexual abuse. Another thing that will help increase the number of Americans in military, national, and public service is zero tolerance of corrupt politicians, and the removal from office of all compulsive liars and those who would pit one group against the other for the sake of political gain.

	<p>Finally, the military must be seen as something positive, rather than a way out of a society where people cannot get a decent education or job.</p> <p>People serve when they believe in what they are serving. There is no shortage of volunteers in America. But those people serve because they want to, not because they are forced into service.</p>
5/22/18	The draft must end and if we stop empire building and invading other countries for their resources, then there is no need to have a draft. We have yet to truly defend our country, we simply invade countries for their resources - end the empire/killing machine.
5/22/18	The draft must end and if we stop empire building and invading other countries for their resources, then there is no need to have a draft. We have yet to truly defend our country, we simply invade countries for their resources - end the empire/killing machine.
5/22/18	<p>Dear Sirs,</p> <p>Let us now end the draft.</p> <p>Robert J Barnhart</p> <p>Austin, Texas</p>
5/22/18	I did not raise my sons to be cannon fodder for rich men's wars. You create the wars, fight them yourself. I don't expect other parents to feel any different than I do.

5/22/18	As a person who is fed up with the endless wars of our government and the extreme waste of money fighting wars, I feel the draft should end. It puts people in situations with which they disagree and they have no recourse to express their disagreement other than conscientious objection. Government leaders don't always make the correct decisions and it is time those 'forced' to serve their country get a voice in their service. We have become the bully of the world, not the leader and with this current administration, we are the laughing stock of the world!
5/22/18	<p>It's time to end draft registration once and for all.</p> <p>Don't expand the draft to women. End it for everyone.</p> <p>No national service linked to the military--including immigration enforcement should be enforced.</p> <p>The draft is nothing that should ever be put into place in a true Democracy. This is not in the interest of national security. Proper diplomatic negotiations are the way to be effective in the world.</p> <p>Public service may be encouraged, but not forced upon people. Please vote NO to any bill that is considering putting the military draft back into law. Thank you.</p>
5/22/18	<p>I am writing to express my belief that mandatory registration for selective service, military draft and mandatory service are unethical and against many people's deepest values. I am not against participation in public service, but that is a calling and must be done from inner conviction and motivation not from government mandate.</p> <p>The CCC, Americorps and the Peace Corps are fine organizations and should be supported, but not mandatory! As for military service, the U. S. is repeatedly on the wrong side of so many struggles for freedom on the part of poor countries that it is time to end it. Thank you for your kind attention, Sharon Paltin, M.D.</p>
5/22/18	a mandatory service requirement for all Americans is not necessary, valuable, and feasible?
5/22/18	I think everybody should be required to serve a year or two for their country if not in the military then Peace Corps or some other service organization we need ambassadors overseas especially considering our lack of credibility in the world under the current Administration

5/22/18	<p>It's time to end draft registration once and for all.</p> <p>Don't expand the draft to women. End it for everyone.</p> <p>No national service linked to the military--including immigration enforcement.</p> <p>Until the US is invaded by a foreign power, stop pretending that the draft is about anything other than empire. The Empire of Greed and global plunder to enrich a few selfish sociopath elites!</p>
5/22/18	<p>Question: "Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security?"</p> <p>Answer: Unequivocally NO.</p> <p>The US should be seeking to reduce, not expand, the size of our military and actively seeking to resolve our international conflicts through peaceful measures. Not only should military action, or threat of such, be an last resort in any conflict, it should only be considered in the most dire of circumstances and only as a reaction to military action against us, i.e. we should never be the instigators of any armed conflict. Decreasing the size of our military while increasing our efforts for peaceful resolutions to international conflict will show the world that we will become leaders of diplomacy and peace.</p> <p>To directly address the draft and registration thereof, the draft was instated when we did have a dire circumstance from a direct attack that required us to respond. Keeping to this day is a declaration that we are not at peace and are not seeking it. It instills a mindset that armed actions are the only way to solve conflict, when this is simply not true. The idea that, at any time upon reaching age 18 and until reach age 25, there is the chance one could be required to withdraw from their private life, their job, their friends, their family, their home, and possibly never return has the effect of instilling a sense</p>

	<p>of fear in individuals as well as an aggression. Young people are made to believe that the only way to solve conflict is through violent means when there are several other ways to bring a problem to resolution.</p> <p>So, no, I do not believe the draft or registration with the selective service commission is needed and should be brought to an end. Besides sending a message to the world that we are trying to become a more peaceful nation, If we're actively seeking to save money and reduce the size of government then this is an excellent place to start.</p>
5/22/18	<p>It's time to end draft registration once and for all.</p> <p>Don't expand the draft to women. End it for everyone.</p> <p>No national service linked to the military--including immigration enforcement.</p>
5/22/18	<p>No selective service draft. It's race, class and gender biased. Registration for National Service for EVERYONE only, with no exemptions based on social status. Every young adult to serve 2 years of public service to include 1 month of basic military training.</p>
5/22/18	<p>The draft is not necessary for our security. Pay and train people appropriately, and they will join. Public service would be appropriate for a requirement, but not in the military. Lots of other areas need help.</p>
5/22/18	<p>The draft is simply enslavement.</p>
5/22/18	<p>The draft is simply enslavement.</p>
5/22/18	<p>-It's time to end draft registration.</p>

	<p>- There should be national service linked to the military--including immigration enforcement departments; stop the militarization of national services.</p> <p>-Until the US is invaded by a foreign power, stop</p>
5/22/18	No draft is needed. No wars are necessary! Sick of my taxes going towards destruction and death so the 1% can get richer. Stop this nonsense! Peace.
5/22/18	It's time to end the mandatory draft!
5/22/18	The draft should not exist. We need to show an example of peace and not war.
5/22/18	<p>Dear National Commission:</p> <p>The statistical probability of the United States being invaded by another country is practically 0.</p> <p>Thus, the National Commission must leave it to the choice of the volunteers who wish to die or get permanently or temporarily disabled, whether to serve in the US military.</p> <p>I myself was forced into the military service in my native Poland in the 70-ties "because" I was a medical student. I hated it and was a deserter whenever possible, with the help of my fellow medical girl-students. NO DRAFT!</p>

I wish to have the above comment published in the Federal Register. Thank you.

And with best wishes and kind regards

I remain faithfully yours

Malgorzata Schmidt MD, PhD, formerly post-doc of Johns Hopkins



5/22/18

DISHONEST us US MILITARY AND GOVERNMENT : It's time to end draft registration once and for all.

Don't expand the draft to women. End it for everyone.

No national service linked to the military--including immigration enforcement.

Until the US is invaded by a foreign power, stop pretending that the draft is about anything other than empire.

	pablo, Houston TX
5/22/18	<p>The draft is no longer necessary and should be ended.</p> <p>The United States can increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation by offering a good starting wage of at least \$40,000/yr and excellent benefits, like full tuition reimbursement. Also, give them all the proper gear for going into the field. If you end funding mercenaries and weapons manufacturers, you can do this.</p>
5/22/18	<p>shame and DISHONEST us US MILITARY AND GOVERNMENT : It's time to end draft registration once and for all.</p> <p>Don't expand the draft to women. End it for everyone.</p> <p>No national service linked to the military--including immigration enforcement.</p> <p>Until the US is invaded by a foreign power, stop pretending that the draft is about anything other than empire.</p> <p>Pablo family , Houston TX</p>
5/22/18	<p>It's time to end draft registration once and for all. We should stop thinking this has anything to do with actual national security.</p> <p>Don't expand the draft to women. End it for everyone.</p> <p>It also seems to be a violation of individual freedom to have a required national service linked to the military--including immigration enforcement.</p>

	<p>Rather the possibility of such service should be attractive on its own merits.</p> <p>Until the US is invaded by a foreign power, we should stop pretending that the draft is about anything other than building an international American empire.</p>
5/22/18	<p>It's time to end draft registration once and for all.</p> <p>Don't expand the draft to women. End it for everyone.</p> <p>No national service linked to the military--including immigration enforcement.</p> <p>Until the US is invaded by a foreign power, stop pretending that the draft is about anything other than empire.</p>
5/22/18	<p>No one should be forced to serve in the military. I remember what people went through trying to avoid being drafted years ago. Our country has no right to require people to risk, or give, their lives in military service, when they could be so much more useful to our country in many other ways.</p> <p>If you draft people into such a hellish situation it's going to feel like a punishment they do not deserve. That will affect the way they serve. There's no way to glorify military service: it's wretched. It can only be carried out willingly, by someone who truly wants to do this, and it seems that many do.</p> <p>What makes the threat of a draft especially horrendous is the fact that our country has carried out so many unjust wars to serve purposes of secret planners in Washington who want unlimited power over the world's resources and people. The U. S. has lied itself into war after war, killing innocent people overseas, destroying their homes and priceless cultural artifacts, and littering their land with depleted uranium and unexplored ordnance. This will have consequences for many years to come. Wherever we've gone, we've planted the seeds of retaliatory terrorism. We</p>

	<p>destabilized Iraq and this led to the birth of ISIS. That's just one example.</p> <p>Enough people have bought into the hogwash that our soldiers are keeping us safe, that freedom isn't free, that the world is covered with our enemies. They unfortunately support their children's sacrifices. They don't think to question our leaders, into whose custody they yield their loved ones. Our leaders have not deserved such trust in a very long time.</p> <p>If Trump is planning war with Iran or North Korea, that is stupid and insanely dangerous. No one should be forced to serve these schemes. No one.</p>
5/22/18	I am 100% for the draft. It helped end the war in Vietnam. As long as middle-class Americans don't have to worry about their sons and daughters facing combat, the imperial wars which have been instigated and waged by the United States will continue unabated.
5/22/18	I'm sorry, I was against the Viet Nam War, but I signed up for the draft and would have gone I suppose but that the draft was suspended just after I signed up. Why was it suspended. Because a citizen army refused to fight and I think a citizen army-rich and poor-no college exemptions, and not a mercenary army, is the best protection we have against endless war, yours truly, Mike Liston
5/22/18	A draft is not necessary. Enough citizens fall for your propaganda; they actually want to fight. I tested with Air Force scores when I was young and naive. I remember how I began in the Air Force office and ended up in the army office, rejected by the more esteemed strip mall recruitment offices because of tattoos and a little record. Maybe instead of turning people away, you could help them fix those problems. The only value of service to me is the help I would have received with housing, schooling and jobs. The skills training was a benefit too; but, be careful who you force (draft) to train as they could turn around and bite you in the ass. You may be training for your own coup, like the kind you've been supporting around the world. Just to be clear, I vote "no" on the draft.
5/22/18	<p>End the draft for all.</p> <p>Don't expand the draft to women. End it for everyone.</p> <p>No national service linked to the military--including immigration enforcement.</p>

5/22/18	Please end the Selective Service System entirely
5/22/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The draft is OK, but only as long as it is enforced equally by demographics 2. same 3. Bring home troops from whole planet; we are not at war with all those countries; they must be for nation's defense not offense. 4. Women get raped, families are separated- too much pressure on a few. 5. If the person is criminal, druggie or gang it can help them get on better track. 6. Only in times of war- not for profit but if US is ever under attack. 7. Better college benefits & help with job placement after getting out.
5/22/18	No one should have to serve in any kind of compulsory military service, especially when so many are sent overseas already to fight wars for the exploitation of resources and the killing of black and brown people abroad as well as in the states by a militarized police force.
5/22/18	If Costa Rica can close down their army, we certainly can... see the film al about it... wow, see what governments are capable of.. real peace and prosperity!
5/22/18	I no longer support the draft. I will defend my country IN my country. Overseas deployments are not there for our freedom. We are in foreign lands to protect corporate interests not our freedoms.
5/22/18	The draft is not necessary. Start paying them a better wage and take better care of the Veterans and there should never be a problem with participation.

5/22/18	<p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>It's time to end draft registration once and for all. Don't expand the draft to women. End it for everyone. No national service linked to the military--including immigration enforcement. Until the US is invaded by a foreign power, stop pretending that the draft is about anything other than empire.</p> <p>Angela Castille-O'Keefe</p>
5/22/18	<p>Not ever again. No draft. It's time to end draft registration once and for all.</p> <p>Don't expand the draft to women. END it for everyone.</p> <p>No national service linked to the military--including immigration enforcement.</p> <p>Until the US is invaded by a foreign power, stop pretending that the draft is about anything other than empire. Truth will prevail.</p>
5/22/18	<p>Let the 'warriors' fight Wall Street's corporate wars.</p>
5/22/18	<p>A military draft is a poor idea because it makes it easier for politicians to start wars. Politicians can start a war. If the war is unpopular, they can use the draft to force people to serve.</p>
5/22/18	<p>We should not force our young people to sign up to kill, there are plenty of people willing to fight for our country without being forced into war. Women were not created for battles, and should not be forced to fight. We have prisoners in jail for life, allow them to go to war instead of being warehoused.</p>
5/22/18	<p>Time to end the draft. Our war machine keeps getting more and more bloated in a world that is ready for peace through negotiation and mutual respect. It's bad enough that funding for the military is off the charts and keeps getting larger; we don't need all the bodies, both on the ground and in the ground, as well. The fear-mongering and imperialistic aspirations of our government is creating a warped and insane world. Stop it.</p>
5/22/18	<p>Nobody is exempt. This law should make our leaders think twice about going to war</p>

5/22/18	I believe we need mandatory public or military service. It could be in many forms. Enlisting in one of the armed services. Rrinstitution of a Civilian Conservation Corp to clean up and make physical improvements to national parks, rivers, beaches, taking city kids to national parks & farms, etc. A national Peace Corps could help inner city youth. People could serve in local, state & federal govt positions where manpower is needed. There are a million ways to serve. It would eliminate this absurd false narrative of "œus vs them." This anti-government rhetoric & "œdeep state" nonsense is dangerous! We could pay for people's college or vocational training. People would have a stake in our country & gain work experience. This should include men and women, mandatory, from ages 18-40.
5/22/18	I am fervently opposed to individuals being drafted into the military for a very fundamental reason: the US military is an imperial enterprise, uncontrolled by us citizens, not able to account for the 51 cents of every tax dollar we pay. Rather than defending our country, it creates enemies, drains our treasury and makes us less secure. And I have listened to the accounts of returning vets, the dehumanizing effects of war that leave them suffering terribly from guilt, which is the never-spoken-of component of PTSD. Most of us would like to serve our country. Let it be in a nonviolent way. Let's expand the Army Corps of Engineers, perhaps, and fix more of our infrastructure. GET CLEAN DRINKING WATER to Flint, Michigan, and the thousands of OTHER CITIES that also need repairs. Or let our cities, counties and states keep more of our taxes, so that we can have nice things like great schools, cutting-edge public transit, universal health care-NOT insurance, CARE, and begin to mitigate the unbridled destruction that the oil, coal, and 'natural' has industries are wreaking on our earth. We know that the invasion of Iraq, Afghanistan, now Syria and Iran are not defense of American people, but wars for oil! We don't need that. We need clean air, water, and soil. And it is a fact that the US military is, by far, the single worst polluter on earth. And as long as a monster like Trump can be president, I would never entrust my child to a service he commands.
5/22/18	<p>The Pentagon can't account for the money it spends carrying out military actions based on the lies of the "elected" in sham campaigns dominated by corporate contributions.</p> <p>End the draft.</p> <p>Keep military recruiters out of public schools.</p>
5/22/18	War should have been obsolete by now and all enlisted troops should be trained in "crowd control" and for service to peacetime "natural disasters." It should be a volunteer service and volunteers should be paid a living wage with benefits. We need to become a nation that cooperates in the world rather than compete. All enlisted service people should be trained in diplomatic relations, and educated in global cultures.

5/22/18	When you say, "I'm not willing to be drafted", you're saying, "I'm going to make my own choices about which wars we should be fighting", and when you say, "You should submit to the draft", you're saying, "You should let the politicians decide for you." No one should be forced to submit to the draft. Look at the thousands of Vietnam Vets, suffering from Agent Orange exposure.... dying way before their time... lied to, still today, about their suffering.
5/22/18	A volunteer military allows the citizenry to disengage from geopolitics and international conflict discussions. Mandatory military service (draft) not only strengthens our country and our military, it dissuades reckless ventures driven by ideology and politics; conflicts by choice (as opposed to conflicts by necessity) and forces families and parents of those in service to better hold their elected officials accountable for the decisions they make.
5/22/18	<p>It's time to end draft registration once and for all.</p> <p>Don't expand the draft to women. End it for everyone.</p> <p>No national service linked to the military--including immigration enforcement.</p> <p>Until the US is invaded by a foreign power, stop pretending that the draft is about anything other than empire.</p>
5/22/18	I don't think there should be a draft for military service. The army, navy, etc. should be voluntary and paid well enough to attract enough people.
5/22/18	It don't mean nothing !
5/22/18	<p>(Quest.#2) The only fair and equal way a draft can work is to start with those "at the top" -- politicians, lobbyists -- and everyone presently involved in the " military-industrial complex" at the highest levels, and their offspring. As that last great Republican said, "œEvery gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. This is not a way of life at all in any true sense. Under the clouds of war, it is humanity hanging on a cross of iron.œ We should not be wasting our youth on killing others."</p> <p>(Quest.#7): You attract more young Americans by changing the focus of the military to public service. I ask myself, if you were 18 yrs old, would you volunteer to be part of the military, and the answer is a resounding no. If I knew that I would be trained to fight if my country were attacked, but would not be attacking and invading other countries, and would spend my service time working to make the world a better place, I would consider volunteering. How could I make the world better? Being part of a team that repaired the infrastructure of Puerto Rico, helped dig wells for tribes in Africa, repaired roads, planted trees, built bridges, and protected wildlife, built urban gardens in poor neighborhoods, worked with the people who have been devastated by the effects of war, especially in countries where our own "complex" has been complicit. In other words, I would not choose to be part of a "killing machine", but, rather, would choose to make a positive impact on the world.</p>

5/22/18	End the endless wars, no draft needed. Hire workforce to restore the country's infrastructure that is in a disgraceful and dangerous condition. Work with other nations in fair ways. Those greedy sons who profit from wars can cope with their existing millions or reinvest in renewable energy and the like. True Americans believe this is the only way for our planet to survive. Wake up United States .
5/22/18	<p>I fully support a draft for all individuals in America, no exceptions no exemptions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. Yes, no exemptions for the rich. 3. Draft 4. None 5. One learns whether through military or a Peace Corps, Vista type program what is really important. 6. Yes 7. Stop the illegal immoral chickenhawk corporate wars. Go back to teaching in public schools. <p>Wayne Beverly</p> <p>USMC Sgt-Vietname 1966/67</p>

5/22/18	<p>1.) No. Absolutely not. Historically, drafts in the US have proven to be horrible ideas. Voluntary military personnel are universally more reliable. Besides, it's completely immoral to force citizens to participate in military service without their consent.</p> <p>2.) No. Selective service is just an extension of a draft, and most of the data is out of date anyways. Updating this would be a huge expense with little benefit.</p> <p>3.) Considering you already advertise for military service practically everywhere, on TV, in print, and on college campuses, and everybody already knows military is the thing we do best, this is completely unnecessary.</p> <p>4.) A desire to not kill people?</p> <p>5.) Maybe it did once upon a time. Nowadays most of our conflicts are centered around maintaining economic and social control via satellite governments around the world, so I'd say military service is kind of immoral these days.</p>
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	<p>6.) No, no, and no.</p> <p>7.) Ensure their service is actually about defense and not about murdering civilians or overthrowing governments or profiteering for the military industrial complex or perpetuating never-ending war against a nameless and faceless foe that we label "terror."</p>
5/22/18	The "Draft" is nothing more than a rich man's way to get the less fortunate to fight their battles for them. When these "old gray headed rich white men, and women" decide to take up arms themselves, and lead us into battle.....then, I might reconsider. Much to easy for them to start these wars, and expect someone else to go and give their life.....while they sit back and count their money !
5/22/18	<p>Necessary that we have a mandatory draft for everyone 18 months - 24 months max</p> <p>No exceptions everyone serves, this makes the service valuable.</p> <p>Service would not necessarily mean military.</p> <p>Could be domestic service or international Peace voluteers</p>
5/22/18	As a veteran, we never gave females the same treatment. Including that they need cut off their hair. Unless all 18 year old people register, then no one should have to! Our military has a proud and patriotic tradition of mainly almost always, being a volunteer service. I wish 21 would be the new enlistment age. As well as transparency and honesty in recruitment! No more lies and false advertising and or promises. No one should be forced to serve ever! Especially if our own national security is Not at risk, like Vietnam. We are not and have not been fighting for Americans freedom's since WW2!

5/22/18	<p>The onus should fall on the leaders and representatives of a country to <i>*convince*</i> their citizens why war may be necessary. If a war is truly necessary, citizens will line up to volunteer for what they believe in. In the Land of the Free, no man or woman will be truly free if there is a potential mandate around every corner. You're asking for the power to risk the lives of nearly any adult citizen in this country, and you're promising that power will never be abused. That is not freedom.</p> <p>Instead, make promises to care for your military, young and old, rookie and veteran. Focus your efforts on the care of our veterans - those who <i>*did*</i> volunteer to serve their country and paid dearly for it. Show future service members that they <i>*will*</i> be cared for and not abandoned after their fight. End selective service registration (which is nothing more than another government mandate) and prove to your citizens that they are needed. Then trust in their loyalty to voluntarily and gladly support their country.</p>
5/22/18	<p>The draft is no longer needed.</p>
5/22/18	<p>The military draft should be repealed. Military decisions should be based on the existing military resources, which are already quite large. Neither men nor women should be forced to provide military service.</p> <p>The United States can increase participation in various services by matching policy decisions to public opinion.</p> <p>A mandatory service is not feasible without violations of one's privacy in regards to tracking.</p>

5/22/18	<p>I don't like the draft because it suggests we are willing to sacrifice a lot of lives for war. Many people are against the frequent tendency of our politicians to send our young people into wars that are ill advised. Having a draft means that if the politicians get us into something that is too big to handle with just the volunteers, they can force more citizens to participate.</p> <p>As a nation we have shown that we are quick to go into conflicts with military troops. We are much poorer about taking care of the people whose lives have been severely altered or maybe ruined for life. Forcing everyone to be among this number seems unwise.</p> <p>I'm against reinstating the draft.</p>
5/22/18	<p>I have opposed draft registration for anybody, male or female, from the very start when former President Jimmy Carter in an unsuccessful attempt to appease the militarists, introduced it early in 1980. I oppose either sex being registered, but I especially oppose the current law's singling out of one gender (like singling out one race!), in this case, males.</p> <p>I am also opposed to the U.S.'s interventionist foreign policy that it has had since the mid-1940's. I refuse to help the government enforce any draft registration/conscription law against anybody who decides to resist.</p>
5/22/18	<p>I am an international human rights lawyer. We should not have any military draft at all. We should have compulsory community service like Peace Corp or Vista in the U.S. We have serious needs in this country that could be addressed by such service. I do not refer to Teach for America putting unqualified teachers into minority classrooms. We increase participation by making such service NOT military but making it about community, responsibility, and civic investment. We have become far too obsessed with money and fame and far too dismissive of community and connection. If you want public service, make it about the public. The military today is about empire, graft and corruption for for-profit contractors who provide shoddy equipment and service not to mention violate laws of war. The military today and its actions are making America less safe not more. It is violating the social contract by using force against others who have done us no harm.</p>

5/22/18	<p>It is well past time to end draft registration. I leave to the side the completely unworkable apparatus, which no one can seriously believe is functional because fundamentally draft registration was about normalizing involuntary servitude and war. It was reinstated as part of a political scheme to divert public attention and resources from human needs to the military machine, and to bring the military back into the high schools at a time when military recruiters faced increasing obstacles. It was about stripping individuals of their dignity, of requiring them to make ritual obeisance before the unfettered power of the state. And it was part of a failed project to create a national database of residents - a project that failed in part because of the millions who like myself refused to register, but also the tens of millions who inevitably do not update the database as they lead their increasingly precarious lives. Instead of seeking ways to increase the country's capacity to make war, you should instead be exploring ways to increase our capacity to promote peace - at home, and abroad. That is the road to true security.</p>
5/22/18	<p>It's time to end draft registration once and for all. It affects people unevenly.</p> <p>Don't expand the draft to women. End it for everyone.</p> <p>No national service linked to the military--including immigration enforcement.</p> <p>Until the US is invaded by a foreign power, stop the draft. The military industrial complex is already way out of control. Stop the draft now.</p>
5/22/18	<p>Enough militarizing of our nation since WWII has been done. Our country is in desperate need of peace.</p> <p>Americans want our hard-earned tax dollars to be kept home to build a nation of peace builders not warriors for empire. Our young need education opportunities, job opportunities to serve our nation here at home as peace builders with equal opportunities for all. Time to stop the killing. Time to stop empire building.</p>
5/22/18	<p>I respect the opinion of military leaders and commanders on the ground that strongly object to the idea of a military draft. The military is a profoundly difficult calling. Drafting an unwilling participant is absurdly dangerous. If we don't have enough volunteers then we need to find a better carrot rather than a stick. How are private contract security personnel being paid more than our soldiers for a start?</p>
5/22/18	<p>The draft or draft contingency is not necessary and registration should be abolished. Mandatory service should never be required. Our endless wars for power and profit is a deterrence to enlistment Why would anyone want to kill and die for the enrichment of the weapons manufacturers and oil companies? Until the US is invaded by a foreign power, stop pretending that the draft is about anything other than empire.</p>

5/22/18	<p>It's time to end draft registration once and for all.</p> <p>Don't expand the draft to women. End it for everyone.</p> <p>No national service linked to the military--including immigration enforcement.</p> <p>Until the US is invaded by a foreign power, stop pretending that the draft is about anything other than empire.</p>
5/22/18	<p>Decades have proven that we and the military do not need the draft. End the draft immediately and abolish the selective service system (and reduce the federal budget saving taxpayers millions).</p>
5/22/18	<p>It's time to end draft registration once and for all.</p> <p>Don't expand the draft to women. End it for everyone.</p> <p>No national service linked to the military--including immigration enforcement.</p> <p>Until the US is invaded by a foreign power, stop pretending that the draft is about anything other than empire.</p>
5/22/18	<p>The last draft call was Sept, 7. 1972, nearly 46 years ago. Because a generation and a half have existed without the need for a military draft, I believe the U.S. selective service system ought to be abolished. We do not need, nor should we want, the military to have involuntary access to our youth, male</p>

	<p>THE DRAFT !!! NO DRAFT END THE DRAFT !!! NO DRAFT END THE DRAFT !!! NO DRAFT END THE DRAFT !!! NO DRAFT END THE DRAFT !!! NO DRAFT END THE DRAFT !!! NO DRAFT END THE DRAFT !!! NO DRAFT END THE DRAFT !!! NO DRAFT END THE DRAFT !!! NO DRAFT END THE DRAFT !!! NO DRAFT END THE DRAFT !!! NO DRAFT END THE DRAFT !!! NO DRAFT END THE DRAFT !!! NO DRAFT END THE DRAFT !!! NO DRAFT END THE DRAFT !! ! NO DRAFT END THE DRAFT !!! NO DRAFT END THE DRAFT !!! NO DRAFT END THE DRAFT !!! NO DRAFT END THE DRAFT !!! NO DRAFT END THE DRAFT !!! NO DRAFT END THE DRAFT !!! NO DRAFT END THE DRAFT !!! NO DRAFT !!!</p>
5/22/18	<p>The military draft contingency is not a necessary component of national security, and the current draft registration requirement serves no legitimate purpose whatsoever. Currently, because of our seriously misguided foreign policy, active military service harms our national security instead of protecting it. Military service also harms our soldiers - most obviously those who serve in combat, but the available research indicates that it harms all of them. In light of these facts, a mandatory service requirement would be a very bad idea. As for barriers to service, the low pay while serving and the steady erosion of post-service benefits are obvious factors which should certainly be remedied.</p>
5/22/18	<p>It's time to end draft registration once and for all.</p> <p>Don't expand the draft to women. End it for everyone.</p> <p>No national service linked to the military--including immigration enforcement.</p> <p>Until the US is invaded by a foreign power, stop pretending that the draft is about anything other than empire.</p> <p>It's long overdue to have a Department of Peace.</p>
5/22/18	<p>End the draft permanently, if we are actually "free," military service should be 100% volunteer. Persecuting people of different genders is definitely a barrier to military service. Little to no public accountability for perpetrators of sexual and domestic violence within the military is a barrier to service.</p>

5/22/18	I was young in the time of the resistance to the Vietnam War and remember well the pain of those who went to Canada or to jail for refusing to go. No draft, please. Barbara Kessel
5/22/18	1. No 2. No. 3. Bring back VISTA. 4. Lack of or under-employment. 5. VISTA shows you how the other half lives and gives you tools to give them to help make the change. 6. First you have to get people to believe that the government actually wants to do its best for them. 7. Free post-high school education.
5/22/18	I believe the draft should end. It's not necessary. If our country is ever threatened in the future, we have enough patriotic men and women who will volunteer as long as the families they leave behind are well-caref for.
5/22/18	Refocusing on the draft means that the federal government is planning to take us further into the never ending war, which is all many of us younger than 50 have ever known.
5/22/18	No Draft!
5/22/18	I was drafted in 1963 and ended up in VN. Do I think we should we should start the draft again? ABSOLUTELY NOT! It has no intrinsic value, but to waste two years of a person's life that could be better used for public service or toward a useful career start. Stop forcing military participation on our youth when there is no threat to our country.
5/22/18	End draft registration - don't expand the draft to women, end it for everyone. No national service linked to the military--including immigration enforcement. American wars are wars of empire, have nothing to do with 'national defense', and as such have no claim on the sacrifice of American lives.
5/22/18	We have been able to field a huge armed force without a draft until now. We are not at war so there doesn't seem to be any need to extend the draft at this time. I understand that the armed services are having a pro blem finding qualified people due to drug use and having some other problems BUT I think the pro blem stems from the fact that they went back on promises made to active service members during the Iraq and Afganistan conflicts. Our government has got to have integrity and renegeing on promises made to citizens is on way to gain cooperation or participation in its programs.
5/22/18	I believe that the reason people don't join the military is because they don't want to go to war, don't want to risk their lives. If we, as a country, stop fighting wars which are not increasing our security but are increasing terrorism here and abroad, then most young people won't be interested. I believe there is inherent value in serving but not when one is risking their life for bad reasons. We all know that the wars we are fighting now are really not about security but are for economic reasons. Having said that, I also believe that registration is ridiculous. . .What is the point unless we re-institute the draft. As to re-instituting the draft, it will never work unless we decide to stop fighting "stupid" wars for "stupid" reasons, i.e. oil or empire. If we stop fighting these wars, maybe a draft wouldn't even be necessary. Consider/Imagine what peace would look like. The United States could create peace and, if we did it, the world would follow.
5/22/18	U.S.A. shame.

5/22/18	<p>It's time to end draft registration once and for all. This means don't expand the draft to women rather end it for everyone.</p> <p>I believe there should not be national service linked to the military--including immigration enforcement. Rather national service should be about helping the citizens by teaching and rebuilding decaying infrastructure'</p> <p>Until the US is invaded by a foreign power, the draft is unnecessary and is about empire building.</p>
5/22/18	<p>Short and sweet, DON NOT BRING BACK THE DRAFT THIS NATION IS DOING ENOUGH TO HARM IT'S OWN CITIZENS AND THE WORLD POPULATION. STOP THE WAR MONGERS DON'T HELP THEM DESTROY THEIR CITIZENS.</p>
5/22/18	<p>The main advantage of a military draft is that it means more Americans have "skin in the game" when the country goes to war, making it less likely that wars of choice, like the war in Afghanistan, will drag on interminably. The main disadvantage is that draft avoidance is a privilege of the wealthier and better educated segment of the population, so less advantaged Americans are those most vulnerable to the dangers of being a soldier, both on the battlefield, and after their battles are over. If that class imbalance cannot be corrected, I believe that the prospect for fewer, shorter wars, on balance, is preferable. If the draft is resumed, I firmly support drafting females as well as males: a step that makes military involvement overseas even less likely.</p> <p>I do not favor universal service, but would support expanded service opportunities for those who do not wish to serve in the military, provided that service actually would do some good in the world and provide real growth opportunities for young people who enroll. If the draft is resumed, there must be options other than military service -- perhaps requiring a longer commitment than service in the armed forces.</p>
5/22/18	<p>NO DRAFT!</p>
5/22/18	<p>Mandatory Service will only be valid in the US if it applies to all. Rich kids must NOT be exempted.</p>
5/22/18	<p>I support a mandatory draft for military OR social service, with a college deferment(grade requirement).</p>
5/22/18	<p>End the draft registration process now, this session. It has no practical or inherent value for anyone's well-being and it is an imposition on us as citizens.</p>

5/22/18	<p>Hello</p> <p>It's time to end draft registration once and for all.</p> <p>Don't expand the draft to women. End it for everyone.</p> <p>No national service linked to the military--including immigration enforcement.</p> <p>Until the US is invaded by a foreign power, stop pretending that the draft is about anything other than empire.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
5/22/18	<p>The question of whether the draft increases or decreases the possibility of the US in taking military action is still not being answered. The Vietnam era anti- draft movement can only be seen as a success if it is seen as an end in itself. The military should not be seen as the "school of the nation." However, national service that includes dangerous assignments are a need antidope to the "me and only me" culture that is antagonist ic to any just society. Any future national service requirement should be placed on the most, rather than the least, privileged in our society.</p>
5/22/18	<p>The question of whether the draft increases or decreases the possibility of the US in taking military action is still not being answered. The Vietnam era anti- draft movement can only be seen as a success if it is seen as an end in itself. The military should not be seen as the "school of the nation." However, national service that includes dangerous assignments are a need antidope to the "me and only me" culture that is antagonist ic to any just society. Any future national service requirement should be placed on the most, rather than the least, privileged in our society.</p>
5/22/18	<p>Service to the military should be a choice for everyone. No drafts!</p>
5/22/18	<p>The military draft is an abomination. Remember Vietnam? Our forces are engaged in illegal, murderous campaigns all over the world. It's bad enough that people actually volunteer to slaughter innocent foreigners who pose no danger whatsoever to us here at home. It is hard to find words adequate to describe and denounce the enormous evil of forcing Americans to do this against their will. End draft registration. No draft!</p>
5/22/18	<p>It's criminal to send children off to war before their life has even begun. If you want more soldiers, pay more! When soldiers are paid as much as oil executives you'll have plenty of volunteers to fight for oil. Does paying a million dollars a year seem ludicrous for a private? You could hire 100,000</p>

	<p>soldiers for \$100 Billion, a fraction of the military budget. Ask yourself, how much would you want to get paid to risk your life?? No draft!! But if you do draft, don't exclude anyone from it, not even politicians. Then you'll know whether it's a war really worth fighting.</p>
5/22/18	<p>1. No 2. unsure 3. Promote a culture of service to others 4. money 5. Yes, service to others increases our sense of well being and helps create a service attitude which benefits us all. 6. Probably not necessary, may not be feasible, but would be valuable. 7. Promote service to others. Give opportunities for young people to serve within the US and to see poverty etc. Please continue to allow people to serve in ways other than the military. Thank you</p>
5/22/18	<p>It's time to end draft registration once and for all.</p> <p>Don't expand the draft to women. End it for everyone.</p> <p>No national service linked to the military--including immigration enforcement.</p> <p>Until the US is invaded by a foreign power, stop pretending that the draft is about anything other than empire.</p>
5/22/18	<p>It is time to end the draf. Our country needs to address the crital issues facing our communities such as climate change consequences, lack of meaningful living wage work, health and growing mental health crises (causing rising violence) to cite a few. Conscription of our youth will not help us in these areas, and a big standing army is too much of a temptation to constantly use force like a bully in our global community.</p> <p>Where is our investment in peaceful processes? Where is our investment in proactive peace measures like reducing poverty, anticipating the need for water and food that is going to grow as a consequence of climate change, and displacement of populations as waters rise? As the most intelligent spieces, we should be enabling our youth to train in research, development, and distribution of new energy systems, housing, local adaptable food production and other things addressing the real and present dangers to prevent war, destruction, and devistation.</p>

	<p>Armies are tools of death, domination, and sorrow. I do not want to force our children to support that with their precious youth. I do not want to invest our resources in destruction.</p> <p>End the draft.</p>
5/22/18	<p>It is the moral and right thing to promote peace not war. We have experienced enough war to know where it leads - more hatred, more war, more suffering, more death. Let's try peace now. Stop glamorizing service in the military. Most of those who return do so damaged in mind and body. We do not need to spend so much on military equipment and personnel. We are not being attacked on our soil. We can be prepared without gutting the treasury. Keep women as well as men out of the draft. Tap into the natural humanity of our people. Increase opportunities to serve in the Peace Corps and other helping organizations.</p>
5/22/18	<p>It's time to end draft registration once and for all.</p> <p>Don't expand the draft to women. End it for everyone.</p> <p>No national service linked to the military--including immigration enforcement.</p> <p>Until the US is invaded by a foreign power, stop pretending that the draft is about anything other than empire.</p>
5/22/18	<p>I will preface this by saying I am an honorably discharged Navy veteran. I am wholeheartedly in favor of mandatory service in some form for all able bodied 18 year old Americans. Be that in the military or in some form of public service, for example a modern version of the CCC or putting them to work helping to repair the country's infrastructure. The lifelong benefits to the individual are to many to count and the benefit to the nation as well.</p>
5/22/18	<p>No one should be forced to combat. If so, the President's and all of congress's offspring should be first in line. Actually, I think that the President and Congress should be up front in battle.</p>

5/22/18	<p>Our system of perpetual war reduces our national security. It is not a component of national security. It is our incessant wars that have resulted in the rise of terrorist groups, some of them once aided by the U.S. and most of them who use predominantly American armaments. In addition, they bankrupt our own country which despite its wealth now has many of the characteristics of a Third World country.</p> <p>The military draft would allow an Administration to greatly expand wars without the approval of the American public. It should be ended. And no one should be prosecuted for not registering under a system that has not been used for inductions in several decades.</p> <p>Service which helps people, not service which kills people, is valuable. It can help many people, and build the character and compassion of those who serve. Our country should enhance the opportunities for voluntary service by men and women. But it should not use service as a way to punish all young people. Volunteering is a great thing. Slavery is not - even slavery in which pay is provided.</p> <p>Military service is different. Those who enter military service are subjected to a conscious resocialization process in which their natural instincts to protect human life are replaced with a willingness to kill solely on the basis of orders issued to them. It teaches them that human life is not valuable. Many of the mass killers who are old enough to have served in the military are military veterans. This is not an accident.</p> <p>We could greatly enhance our national security by removing the military bases we have all across the world, and end our policies of seeking to override the desires of the people of other nations and instead get those nations to be subservient to the U.S. This is done in the service of evil ideologies such as American Exceptionalism. Americans are not superior to other humans. We are not some sort of superhumans whose destiny is to control the rest of</p>
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	<p>the world.</p> <p>By removing the 750 or so major military bases used for imperialism and bringing our troops home, we could save trillions of dollars. With this, we could be partners to the rest of the world instead of their dominators, in addition to having the funds to address the massive social problems here in the U.S.</p>
5/22/18	<p>It would be simplest to quote Abraham Lincoln here.</p> <p>"This country, with its institutions, belongs to the people who inhabit it. Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing government, they can exercise their constitutional right of amending it, or their revolutionary right to dismember it or overthrow it."</p> <p>ABRAHAM LINCOLN, First Inaugural Address, March 4, 1861</p> <p>A voluntary military is reasonable. Compulsory military service is immoral.</p>

5/22/18	<p>I am a veteran and I volunteered to join the Army. If someone wants to join the military, that is their right to do so. But no one should be forced to join the military, or to even to register to be available to be forced to do so. Thanks you.</p> <p>Jack Harmell</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
5/22/18	<p>IF there is a draft, there are no exceptions. Men and Women. Straight AND LGBTQ. Rich or poor. No exceptions... no discrimination.</p> <p>One deferral for education per person, in school full time. Trade school or medical school, no difference. Finish school you serve. No exception.</p> <p>No exemptions. Two years of service by EVERY American.</p>
5/22/18	<p>It's time to end draft registration once and for all.</p> <p>Don't expand the draft to women. End it for everyone.</p> <p>No national service linked to the military--including immigration enforcement.</p> <p>Until the US is invaded by a foreign power, stop pretending that the draft is about anything other than empire.</p>
5/22/18	<p>Fascist imperialist amerika has been slaughtering for your evil empire since 1776! End your wars on the World!</p>

	No draft of innocent youth, end all occupations and no more occupations; close all bases in other nations, get your murdering military out of all other nations!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
5/22/18	<p>I would think it would be obvious.</p> <p>Rather than forcing people into service, show them that this is a country that cares for them as citizens and human beings and is interested in helping them flourish and grow.</p> <p>The ham handed approach of a draft and underfunding education so people are not able to overcome the handicaps of finding college too expensive and good jobs elusive with no training that forces them to enlist in an military that is used for corporate profits and corporate empire.</p>
5/22/18	I do not value war. I value peace. I do not believe in a draft. I do not believe humans should submit to being drafted to fight war. Humans should not be killing other humans half way around the world for a bit of oil profit. The one percent can fight their own wars. Thank you.
5/22/18	<p>No to the draft.</p> <p>Men and women need to extinguish the fight response not augment it. We need peace makers not killers.</p> <p>Military training is not in the best interest of society.</p> <p>In the service one loses all civil rights. We need more protection of our rights to pursue happiness and liberty.</p> <p>We need to preserve life and not take it.. There is a certain immorality in making killers out of our nation's youth.</p> <p>The military teaches violence. To survive as a species we must practice non-violence.</p> <p>The military robs us of vital money that is spent in buying and equipping killing machines and destructive devices. Our vital resources are also used in equipping each service member, providing housing in military reservations and in deploying troops all over the world. The use of these killing machines destroys the land, sea and air. It is immoral to kill or injure another human.</p>

	<p>We are one world and one species. We must have reverence for life and be "Our brother's keepers".</p> <p>No to the military and to the war hawks who are controlling congress to make wars and destabilize other nations.</p> <p>No to all congress members who are controlled by the war hawks and merchants of death and destruction.</p> <p>Yes to non-violence and reverence for life.</p>
5/22/18	Signing up to serve is signing up to kill. That is wrong.
5/22/18	Military drat, NO. Mandatory service (public service), YES
5/22/18	<p>Mandatory draft registration should end. But mandatory service would be good because, just like with Vietnam and mandatory service, there would be so rebellion in this nation against the unjust, just-for-corporate-profit wars that we are fighting, these totally unnecessary wars would come to an end. We do not need to be fighting in Syria so that the Saudi's can build an oil pipeline to Turkey; we don't need to be fighting in Afghanistan or anywhere else. These wars have nothing to do with "national security." "NS" is nothing but a giant lie so that corporations can gain resources and land for building pipelines. Further, the Jews are in no danger and I personally will not support these filthy people who steal Palestinian land, burn down their olive orchards, and murder their children and then celebrate the murder. So, if we had mandatory service the American people would finally know the truth of what is going on in this country and these meaningless soley-for-profit-and-empire-wars would come to an end. Further, it would end the military industrial complex stranglehold on this nation and would end the manufacture of so many useless weapons of war that are used in school shootings. The only way to end school shootings is to end the production of these useless military-style weapons. Further, it is dangerous for our country to put its whole economy on the production of weapons. Further, this country is involved in war crimes against humanity, for example, against the Yemenis because we sell so many weapons to Saudi Arabia, and also because we sell so many weapons to Israel, and all the filthy Jews do is use them to murder teenage boys who throw rocks. The Jews are war criminals. So, let's expand the draft so that the American people will see the truth behind what we do, and just like with Vietnam there will be so much protest that this country will have no choice but to end these disgusting wars.</p>
5/22/18	PLease abolish the draft. We have enough people signing up. Until this government can take care of the vets that need assistance do without more bodies. WE have technology, we do do not need more people in the military.

5/22/18	The draft was a travesty in the 60's and it's a travesty now. All our young men dying--and for what? Profit and greed and some men's need for power. It certainly wasn't and isn't about spreading democracy. And how could we do that anyway, when we don't even have it in our own country? No person, man or woman, should be forced to kill another human for ANY reason. The military's purpose should be defense on our own soil only and then only against invaders, certainly not our own citizens. In the case of aggression on our own soil, there would be no need for a draft--our people would willingly volunteer in droves.
5/22/18	The draft is immoral and a violation of human rights. It should be abolished immediately. It is offensive that it continues in the 21st century.
5/22/18	I opposed the draft in the 60s and 70s. Now I realize that while the draft was evil, we now have what many have called a "poverty draft" where military servitude is the only option available for poor people to obtain an education and or embark on a career. I realize now that one reason there was finally successful opposition to the illegal and immoral war against Vietnam was because the draft was affecting middle class white folks. Of course the rich and privileged were able to avoid the draft or at least avoid risking their asses, but white middle class parents and kids finally had enough of the bullshit and said no more. George W. Bush understood this which is why he forbid the press to cover the return of the bodies of military men and women...kept them out of sight and out of mind except for the nauseating platitude, "thank you for your service." A more truthful saying would have been, "thank you for killing, maiming, and torturing. Thank you for ensuring a steady supply of people who will hate America and become "terrorists" thereby guaranteeing the continued profits of military industrial complex!" The all volunteer army has enabled the rest of us to say, "eh! They shouldn't have volunteered if they didn't want to get shot." These days America stays in a perpetual state of war. The reason is because the elites are making a fucking fortune selling death. OK fine. You want to make war on all the world, then put those lily white rich kids on the firing line with no special privileges. Draft EVERYONE, especially rich white boys and girls. If any of them have a soul, they'll go to jail rather than kill for you. No student deferments, no parental deferments, no marriage deferments no cushy desk jobs for the well connected. Then let's see if white Americans support all your fucking wars of conquest that suck up all our taxes and all the money you can borrow.

5/22/18	<p>The "draft," the forced recruitment of soldiers for the purpose of war, is immoral, unnecessary, and unlawful. Forcing individuals to "serve" their country by killing other human beings is simply wrong, and serves no useful purpose. (See: Vietnam)</p> <p>Thus, forcing individuals, whether male or female, to register for a draft, as we have done since the 80's despite there being no actual draft, is senseless and an invasion of the rights and privacy of our citizens. Registration should stop immediately.</p> <p>If the United States government needs to increase volunteerism for war, or any other purpose, it needs to clearly demonstrate an actual need for such assistance. If it is unable to demonstrate such necessity, one must then assume there is none. The largest barrier to a voluntary military is the obvious: one may be killed in "service" to a corrupt government or president.</p> <p>To call military participation "service," at this point in time, when it has been demonstrated again and again that the only benefit of war is to war profiteers, is a degradation of the word. Call it what it is: forced poverty conscription.</p> <p>A mandatory "service" requirement for all Americans, on the surface, seems to make more sense. However, once again it is obvious that there are many individuals who are serving America, as volunteers, and making that more attractive by offering incentives will solve any recruitment difficulties. (See: Volunteers of America, The Peace Corps)</p> <p>If you wish to increase the numbers of young people volunteering, give them something worthwhile in exchange. (It is not worthwhile to offer the chance to die, while having had one's individuality and humanity damaged by "basic training," followed by being discarded after usefulness is ended. See: current status of veterans)</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>David M. Laws</p> <p>Proud War Resistor since 1967</p>
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	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Bellingham, WA [REDACTED]</p>
5/22/18	The Draft should not be limited to MILITARY uses. I think EVERY young American SHOULD register for SOME kind of Public Service.
5/22/18	<p>There is no need for draft registration. It should be abolished.</p> <p>As a Christian, follower of a God who calls us to nonviolence and love of enemy, I would contend that draft registration is analogous to the Roman demand that early Christians offer a pinch of incense to the emperor, which many Christians refused to do at the cost of their lives. No one should be forced to violate their conscience by having a legal requirement to register.</p> <p>Draft registration is also a waste of significant amounts of money that could be put to much better use, e.g. addressing the needs of the world's poor, hungry, and refugees.</p>

5/22/18	<p>One reason there was a successful opposition to the illegal and immoral war against Vietnam was because the draft was affecting middle class white folks. Of course the rich and privileged were able to avoid the draft or at least avoid risking their asses, but white middle class parents and kids finally had enough of the bullshit and said no more. George W. Bush understood this which is why he forbid the press to cover the return of the bodies of military men and women...kept them out of sight and out of mind except for the nauseating platitude, "thank you for your service." A more truthful saying would have been, "thank you for killing, maiming, and torturing. Thank you for ensuring a steady supply of people who will hate America and become "terrorists" thereby guaranteeing the continued profits of the military industrial complex!" The all volunteer army has enabled the rest of us to say, "eh! They shouldn't have volunteered if they didn't want to risk getting shot." These days America stays in a perpetual state of war. The reason is because the elites are making a fucking fortune selling death. OK fine. You want to make war on all the world, then put those lily white rich kids on the firing line with no special privileges. Draft everyone, ESPECIALLY rich white boys and girls. No student deferments, no parental deferments, no marriage deferments no cushy desk jobs for the well connected. Then let's see if white Americans support all your fucking wars of conquest that suck up all our taxes and all the money you can borrow. YES, PLEASE, by all means reinstitute a draft.</p>
5/22/18	<p>Why the hades do the children of the "common" citizen have to fight banker's wars. End the draft. Our children are just as precious as the Clintons, Bushs, Obamas and Soros's.</p> <p>We are now taxed with no representation and now our children are being forced into the meat grinder called "war."</p> <p>Russia is not the enemy, the jerks in Washington DC are.</p>
5/22/18	<p>Nothing that our military is now involved in has anything to do with national security. If you would increase young people's "propensity" to serve, you must first end all wars of aggression and spend some of the money on caring for the veterans.</p>
5/22/18	<p>In 1968 I enlisted in the Marine Corps. As I did so, I was aware of taking a big step. The current draft registration is based on threats and fear rather than opportunity. That is bordering on Un-American. Young people should have opportunity offered rather a felony threatened. It is time to end draft registration.</p>

	<p>Jim Lovestar</p> <p>USMC, 1968-71</p>
5/22/18	<p>As one who spoke vehemently against the Draft in the sixties, I likewise do so today for any thought of its re-institution. Such a concept, for any country or society, is morally reprehensible. It amounts to mass scale human sacrifice of unwilling people being murdered--for what? NOT "defense of the country," when they are sent to dozens of foreign countries to serve as occupation forces or in preparation for aggression against nearby countries. End this empire! Military Draft is an abomination! It is involuntary servitude, prohibited by the Constitution, regardless if one is paid financially.</p>
5/22/18	<p>It's time to end draft registration once and for all.</p> <p>Don't expand the draft to women. End it for everyone.</p> <p>No national service linked to the military--including immigration enforcement.</p> <p>Until the US is invaded by a foreign power, stop pretending that the draft is about anything other than empire.</p>
5/22/18	<p>Draft the children of the rich, first.</p>
5/22/18	<p>Mandatory service would be detrimental to our youth and nation. Increased militarization of this country would increase anxiety levels and decrease the efforts being spent in the areas that will improve our country's position and the mental and physical health of our country (like education, improved food supplies, medical care, emotional support, etc.). When we invest in war more than we invest in people, our nation suffers (both in the short and long run).</p> <p>The focus of our leaders should be on diplomacy and collaboration. Isn't our own recent history of war evidence enough that the heavy-handed militaristic approaches aren't effective? Through our wars and military aggressions, we have a history of helping future generations of people hate our country and turn from being allies to being enemies.</p> <p>There is no longer a need for a draft or any selective service efforts. Use the money from that effort to fund the programs that are more effective in</p>

	deescalating conflict and help humans get better at collaborating and having peaceful relationships. When will we learn from our mistakes? Continuing to promote conflict and aggression will just get us all killed or worse, maimed.
5/22/18	<p>It's time to end draft registration once and for all. Don't expand the draft to women. End it for everyone. No national service linked to the military-- including immigration enforcement.</p> <p>Until the US is invaded by a foreign power, stop pretending that the draft is about anything other than empire. The best alternative to military service for young people is voluntary community service.</p>
5/22/18	<p>Ever since the INDUSTRIAL Military Complex took over Political, Economic Control and influence in Military & Governmental Policies, the question of having a "military" draft is unacceptable. Sending young men AND women to their deaths is no longer an act of 'patriotic defense' of OUR country and freedom. Today's "Preemptive Warfare" is Not and are Not actions that can be morally or democratically justified.</p> <p>Historically, Young People have consistently Volunteered to put their lives at risk to "protect and serve" OUR country when OUR Democracy has been at risk or attacked. "Regime Change" and Interference in the Internal Policies of Other Countries is and has Never been "Patriotic". Warfare against third world countries for Resources to benefit the U.S. "bottom line" is immoral and has proven to be an unending morass.</p> <p>UNTIL Politicians and Corporate "Leaders" who are responsible for wars that are: 'declared', 'undeclared' or described as 'conflicts' then said Politicians and Corporate Leaders must be Required to serve mandatory participation in the military (no excuses) and send themselves along with their 'nearest and dearest' into BATTLE (no deferments, no safe postings.) Until then, 'Military Draft' has No Justification.</p>

5/22/18	<p>We do not need the draft, and should end "selective service." We do not need every man age 18 to sign up for involuntary military service. The United States should not be involved in perpetual wars. The money spent on the military should be reduced, we should bring our troops home. We should not have invaded Iraq and Afghanistan--17 years there, for what?</p> <p>Your question no. 7--the answer is, "Make that service meaningful and moral." The Peace Corps is a perfect example. So is VISTA. What about all the projects and maintenance needed in our national parks?</p> <p>Question no. 3--Same response as no.7--make that service meaningful and moral--not propping up dictators or United Fruit Company. Young people yearn for meaningful service--being part of something greater than themselves. They want their lives to have a purpose.</p>
5/22/18	<p>End the draft. End Selective Service. The American people have lost all Faith with the government both Democrat and Republican and they will never again allow themselves to be drafted into another ridiculous War. It simply will not happen. If you want another civil war on the hands then I suggest you try. Apparently you people have no idea how angry the people of this country are at our leaders. I know good decent God-fearing people who've never raise their hands against anyone in their entire life. But they will never allow their children to be slaughtered like cannon fodder. Not in Wars for profit not in Wars for oil. Unless you have plan on having an army that is nothing short of slave labor don't even try to draft.</p>
5/22/18	<p>I think all foreign military bases should be closed and we should stop invading other countries. If congress does declare war, then people should decide whether they want to fight in it or not. No person should be forced to fight a war.</p> <p>Susan Nash</p> <p>Idyllwild CA [REDACTED]</p>

5/22/18	<p>In response to the question. "Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security?", my answer is an emphatic "NO". Our country is best served by those who choose to serve. In light of this, I do not believe that any modifications to the selective service system are necessary.</p> <p>We can "increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation", by extending national service outside of the military sector, and culture. Current non-military service programs are under funded, under staffed, and under publicized. All national public service has inherent value, and all public service from community level to the national level should be considered valuable and creditable to a any public service requirements. In addition to the value these services provide to the nation and its communities, participation in these no-military services provides opportunities for young Americans to better integrate within society. Non-military service, in contrast to military service, does not traumatize and damage, but educates, enlightens, and assimilates. These are the opportunities that young Americans need.</p>
5/22/18	<p>End the draft. I don't want ONE young person to die for nothing. And having a draft makes presidents want to use them, usually for ill. Costa Rica is rich and they don't even have a military. Half of Americans are poor and we can't afford one!</p>
5/22/18	<p>I am against the draft. Neither men nor women should.be drafted. Our military presence in the world needs to be decreased dramatically. I DO NOT WANT MY TAXES TO BE USED TO POLICE THE WORLD. We need to put.the needs of.Americans in America first. We should.have safe and up-to-date infrastructure. No child should.go to bed.hungry, All should have decent housing, good PUBLIC EDUCATION AND TRANSPORTATION, and health care.and.decent wages</p>
5/22/18	<p>I totally believe it is time to end the draft. No person should be forced to kill under any circumstances. Let our military be by choice. Let us end war as the way to solve problems. Let us evolve.</p>
5/22/18	<p>I thought we were in a country that values freedom for each individual. I think we spend way too much of our tax money on the military and we just want to dominate the world. I think we have a much better chance at peace if we back off from the strong-arm tactics our government has all-too-often engaged in. And we desperately need our tax dollars for education, healthcare, helping people rise out of poverty, upgrading our infrastructure (especially our old bridges) etc. etc. etc. We don't need a draft!!! If we were a peaceful nation, and the danger of getting killed wasn't so high, you could find more people that would serve a peacetime military.</p>

5/22/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Neither military draft, nor draft contingency, are necessary for U.S. national security. <li>2. Selective service should be ended permanently. <li>3. Increased participation could be achieved by removing bans from service for citizens from marginalized communities, such as the transgender population, as well as reducing the United States' aggressive foreign policy, which draws extraordinary amounts of negative public sentiment. <li>4. Public service positions, especially teaching roles, are grossly underfunded and underpaid. <li>5. Military service may have value in defending our homeland, but meddling in the Middle East carries none. <li>6. Mandatory service is absolutely unnecessary; barriers to service should be removed and policy should respond to public sentiment and social need, increasing its viability and attractiveness as a voluntary career option. Furthermore, mandatory service violates our fundamental rights as American citizens.
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	<p>7. Young americans are, almost universally, financially disenfranchised, pro-lgbt, and against hawkish foreign policy. The United States could increase participation by respecting these values.</p>
5/22/18	<p>I choose NOT to serve because the US Military was involved in too many covert wars for the last 200-years installing puppet dictators. There should NOT be a draft unless someone try's to have World domination and it looks like the US is leading the way for other dictators to follow suit. "Only LOVE will over power the love of power..." I once believed the military was something to serve in honorably like WWII. My two oldest brothers fought in the Korean conflict. 657K tons of bombs, 372K tons of napalm was dropped on on N. Korea with 3 million dead! My brothers went in good kids and came back SCREWED UP!!! That issue is just one of many situations the US Military, CIA, Corporations, Politicians, Bankers and Lawyers have been involved in the create REGIME change in almost every country on planet EARTH! I have so many friends who went into service since Vietnam to the Levant who have committed suicide, hooked on drugs, isolated themselves or just plan can't get the services they need to get well again. Our militaries are not the same during WWII, they only serve the Military Industrial Complex, (remember Eisenhower?), the RICH and Corporate greed with NO respect to the soldier except to be cannon fodder. No, there should not be a draft. "We" know, if there ever was a situation where an army would form and stand up against tyranny, it will happen over night...</p>

5/22/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Neither military draft, nor draft contingency, are necessary for U.S. national security. <li>2. Selective service should be ended permanently. <li>3. Increased participation could be achieved by removing bans from service for citizens from marginalized communities, such as the transgender population, as well as reducing the United States' aggressive foreign policy, which draws extraordinary amounts of negative public sentiment. <li>4. Public service positions, especially teaching roles, are grossly underfunded and underpaid. <li>5. Military service may have value in defending our homeland, but meddling in the Middle East carries none. <li>6. Mandatory service is absolutely unnecessary; barriers to service should be removed and policy should respond to public sentiment and social need, increasing its viability and attractiveness as a voluntary career option. Furthermore, mandatory service violates our fundamental rights as American citizens.
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7. Young americans are, almost universally, financially disenfranchised, pro-lgbt, and against hawkish foreign policy. The United States could increase participation by respecting these values.

5/22/18	<p>Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security?</p> <p>NO.</p> <p>Are modifications to the selective service system needed?</p> <p>YES.</p> <p>How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation?</p> <p>BY INCLUDING TRUE PEACE STUDIES INTO TRAINING; AND THROUGH REAL HONESTY, NOT BS, ABOUT OUR NATIONAL HISTORY OF RACISM AND EMPIRE.</p> <p>What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service?</p> <p>LACK OF HONESTY, PERIOD. TELL THE TRUTH, YOU WILL GET APPLICANTS.</p>
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	<p>Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it?</p> <p>YES -- IF IF IF WE TEACH, LEARN, ACCEPT, AND CONTRIBUTE TO SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL QUALITIES.</p> <p>Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible?</p> <p>MAYBE, IF THERE WERE TIERS OF SERVICE SO AS TO GIVE MORE CHOICE; IE., MANDATORY SOCIAL WORK, MANDATORY TEACHING POSITIONS, ETC. ET AL TIMES AT LEAST SCORES OF OTHER TOPICS.</p> <p>How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve?</p> <p>SEE ABOVE, APPLY IT, ADD LOVE, AND MAKE THE WORLD MEMORIZE THIS: "Only sustainable actions can ever support children, and there is no exception".</p>
5/22/18	No one with a functional brain signs up for wars for profit. That's really all that needs to be said here.
5/22/18	Having a draft eliminates Freedom of Choice and the pursuit of happiness.
5/22/18	End the draft for everyone! Military service has no value for anyone, check the suicide rates of veterans. Mandatory military service is not necessary or valuable. Until the US is invaded by a foreign power, stop pretending that the draft is about anything other than empire and illegal wars.
5/22/18	As I said 30 years ago, I regret being too old to burn my draft card. No one should go to war, especially young people.
5/22/18	Forcing a person against his or her will is evil just like rape is evil.
5/22/18	Justice demands that: It's time to end draft registration, Don't expand the draft to women but end it for everyone, No national service linked to the military--including immigration enforcement.

5/22/18	<p>Endless wars. How many more bodies, how many more crying mothers.</p> <p>Our Security issues at not over seas but here at home. How about a Peace Corp here at home instead of a draft.</p> <p>Sincerely</p> <p>Martin Lepkowski wakefield, RI</p>
5/22/18	<p>I used to think compulsory military training for everyone for a one year period was a good idea.I no longer think that. I am a disabled vet of the Korean war and I know first hand the consequences of a poorly equipped and trained military.Since then America has glibly engaged in military adventurism instigated by influential people and vested interests who have their own agenda under the guise of national defense. The result has been a huge cost in national treasure; an unknown number of lives lost or ruined; an incalculable waste of natural resources and environmental destruction; and most difficult to ascertain is the degradation of our national ethos. The standards of conduct for our military have been corrupted by certain political leaders which resulted in the use of torture and gross violations of human rights which have spread into non-military realms (e.g. ICE agents).</p> <p>I believe we need a standing military force in the event we are attacked. We do not need to be the self-appointed international police force. Close most of the military bases around the world. Re-orient the role of the military in a way to prepare for a new model of warfare. Not boots on the ground, no appeal to be the most macho gung ho troop or re-styling uniforms to attract recruits, but focus on the roles and talents that will be needed in the modern warfare of solely protecting our national security.</p>
5/22/18	<p>It is way past time to eliminate the military draft of any kind. This nation needs to stop its militarism, decrease military spending, and close its many military bases around the world.</p> <p>This nation's foremost task is to eliminate all nuclear weapons. Their use would be catastrophic for the security of our nation and for the entire world. We must stop using the threat of nuclear weapons against all nations.</p>

5/22/18	The draft is not needed for national security. A mandatory service requirement is not necessary or feasible. Young people should be directed into other kinds of public service to serve the country. Many young people are simply not suited to go to war. Besides we need to end war everywhere. Peace is the answer.
5/22/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No 2. Yes, end the elective service system in its entirety. 3. End wars and covert operations abroad that only serve the interests of imperial aspirations. 4. Wars abroad that only serve the interests of imperial aspirations. 5. Yes, but it should serve the interests of the American people, not foreign interests. 6. Only if public service is a priority. 7. End wars and covert operations abroad that only serve the interests of imperial aspirations.
5/22/18	I feel that it is time for the USA to end the draft and registration. We have spent most of our history at war. The future of humankind and the planet is at stake. If a war becomes necessary, the Congress should be the ones to make that decision. Then, if necessary, they can institute a draft.
5/22/18	<p>It's time to end draft registration once and for all.</p> <p>Don't expand the draft to women. End it for everyone.</p> <p>No national service linked to the military--including immigration enforcement.</p>

	<p>Until the US is invaded by a foreign power, stop pretending that the draft is about anything other than empire, conquest and domination of sovereign nations.</p>
5/22/18	<p>In the 21st century a request for military service is nothing more than a farce. Our negotiative and cooperative skills these days are phenomenal. We are so far beyond our pleistocene ancestors that we are now called Homo SAPIENS (WISE). So the only reason now for military action of any kind is to lie cheat and steal our way to empire. Only Business wants war, so there is no reason whatsoever for real people to fight for them. Business is not Country and pretense to bear on citizens to believe that it is. The Military is also not Country - it is now only the long arm of the filthily rich. TAX THEM. War is 100% evil in this century, because we can all negotiate. KILL THE DRAFT.</p>
5/22/18	<p>Involuntary servitude violates traditional American values. Don't bring back the draft or any kind of military-connected mandatory service -- create full employment through a civilian jobs program.</p> <p>Abolish the Selective Service System. Until this is accomplished, end the discriminatory female exemption from draft registration, so that male disposability will no longer let people easily support wars for empire.</p>
5/22/18	<p>End the military draft completely -- NOW!</p>
5/22/18	<p>It's time to end draft registration once and for all.</p> <p>Don't expand the draft to women. End it for everyone.</p> <p>No national service linked to the military--including immigration enforcement.</p> <p>Until the US is invaded by a foreign power, stop pretending that the draft is about anything other than empire.</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>Lydia Garvey Public Health Nurse</p>

	<p>██████████ Clinton OK ██████████</p>
5/22/18	<p>I have been convinced for 60 years that Universal Service is needed for all citizens, with no exceptions. Everyone from 18 to 24 years old should spend a couple of years in service to the community, including men, women, the handicapped, everyone. But not necessarily in the military. Service for the common good could be in the Peace Corps, the CCC, the military, or any other public service organization. The benefit would be a better understanding of what makes a society work, and what's required to keep it functioning. Everyone can make a contribution. I myself came of draft age in 1958 when I was in college. I got married and had a child while in college, and was not drafted. It was just a couple of months later that President Kennedy announced the Peace Corps. I would have been more than delighted to join the Corps, but the timing was wrong for me. I have considered going the Peace Corps as an older adult, but I suspect that a pacemaker limits my possibilities.</p> <p>Michael Coleman</p> <p>████████████████████</p> <p>Oakland, CA ██████████</p> <p>████████████████████</p> <p>██</p>
5/22/18	<p>The draft is obsolete.</p>

5/22/18	The United States continuously wages wars of aggression, and has no moral authority with which to draft young men and women into the service of the military industrial complex.
5/22/18	<p>1. NO. Security comes from waging peace, not war. We need education and diplomats - not more soldiers. Our history of belligerence and empire is not a sustainable template for our future. Guns are not problem-solving tools. They're for bullying, oppressing, threatening and harming by definition. No amount of bullying ever made a school-yard safer - why would the world be different? On a national level, we should be worrying about the unsustainable trajectories of our species, and solve our problems consensually and cooperatively with democratic and human-rights-based values, rather than at gunpoint. If our military budget were instead allocated to things that actually made us proud, and left the world a demonstrably better place, you wouldn't have a hard time selling service.</p> <p>2. YES. End it. A professional volunteer army is sufficient. No one is threatening to invade, so let's not pretend that our military is about anything but Empire & 21st C Corporate Colonialism. Keep a strong National Guard system that does not/cannot go overseas unless invited by allies, and a small professional force of VOLUNTEERS that wants to serve in a collective NATO-like arrangement and you'd be more deserving of respect, and then you wouldn't have to capture and brainwash our kids with phony visions of glory.</p> <p>3. Move half of the military budget to the national education system for science, R&D, and training problem solvers. Guns, etc only create problems, NOT solutions, in our interconnected global world. Your question is based on a false premise and a source of shame.</p> <p>4. The system is archaic and inappropriate to a livable future and is not addressed by these questions.</p> <p>5. The military does not have a monopoly on "serving your country". That phrase has been hijacked - threatening and blowing up our neighbors is NOT "serving our country." We would still have the most powerful military in the world if we shaved off a couple hundred billion dollars and redirected it to R&D and education and diplomatic services determined to SOLVE PROBLEMS in the world. Our wars are largely manufactured to serve the interests of corporations and religious extremists in our country, and most of what passes as "patriotism" is self-serving propaganda.</p> <p>6. No - it's actually a threat to our well-being, and that of our future generations. It should be abolished as long as it's so egregiously misdirected.</p> <p>7. It shouldn't. We haven't had a Just war since WWII. That's a supply-side sales problem. If you can't sell a war, don't fight it to begin with. We should raise the age of enlistment to 25 and redirect our kids towards being productive, instead of preying on them in their formative years. I don't want my</p>

	<p>boys to grow up to be killers. I'd be far more proud to have them join Peace Corps, Americorps or Doctors without Borders than have them hand their lives over to the American war machine with it's terrible and underfunded education system, and pathetic Veterans services.</p>
5/22/18	<p>haffto get Satan out of our national government, and out of our state government for that matter, then people will be willing to serve the military. I think that has already started. But when you guys will revolt against Trump and his amazing holy and divine allies -and those of you who are rotten rats and moles know who I am talking to , because I am talking to you rats and moles- and everything goes back to s*** in this country - and in the whole world as a result- nobody's going to want to serve your evil Army except for evil people. And evil people will always turn their backs on each other and stab each other in the back in times of their own personal greed and desire. When things get tough there will be dissension within the ranks, just as there was during the 2015 election, and your plans will not go the way you wanted them to.</p> <p>Unfortunately I have seen the future, and visions, and there will not be one building left standing in America before too long; oh how I wish America could get back to its roots and pull it's head out of its ass (completely), but there is too many ignorant people who are following Satan; that will ruin it for the rest of us. I hope to get out of this country as soon as possible. Flee Babylon, to those who have ears, flee Babylon! And GOD BLESS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION and it's TRUE followers.! Amen~</p> <p>-</p>

5/22/18	<p>I have always believed that a military draft was an abuse of federal power, an unwarranted intrusion into the lives of American civilians. Those who in good conscience choose to volunteer for military service, are entitled to make this choice. Those who for religious, ethical or other principles object to military service must be honored for their decision.</p> <p>Until the US is invaded by a foreign power, it is patently obvious that the draft is about anything other than empire, serving only to enrich the oligarchy. History demonstrates that all nations seeking empire ultimately fail. War cannot bring peace. Only peace can bring peace.</p>
5/22/18	<p>It's time to end draft registration once and for all.</p> <p>Don't expand the draft to women. End it for everyone.</p> <p>No national service linked to the military--including immigration enforcement.</p> <p>Until the US is invaded by a foreign power, stop pretending that the draft is about anything other than empire.</p>
5/22/18	<p>Balance the federal budget by ending all of America's overt and covert wars of fascist capitalist aggression! Balance the federal budget by drastically downsizing the American fascist capitalist war machine, i.e. the U.S. military! Stop and reverse the rise of the American fascist capitalist military/police state by outlawing the military draft!</p>
5/22/18	<p>In this day of never-ending war which is never declared, and at a time when Congress has abdicated its responsibilities regarding war, I believe there should be no draft. You cannot force people into unpopular wars that have nothing to do with our security. The U.S. is all about empire building and until we are invaded, there should be no national service linked to the military or immigration enforcement.</p>
5/22/18	<p>It is time to end the military draft and replace it with a national service program that would be applied to all young people equally, with the projects to be worked un chosen by a mass democratic process.</p>
5/22/18	<p>Since Vietnam, our military has never been used to defend our country, only to extend our control of the world and defend our empire, this empire that has been created without our knowledge or consent.</p> <p>Let those who have created it and profit from it defend it. The rest of us owe nothing. In fact, it has been used to take away many of our rights, to impoverish us and to oppress us.</p>

5/23/18	<p>I don't think the draft should be continued. It forces people into situations they may not agree or be comfortable with. It removes their free will. A more reasonable alternative would be a low commitment reward based opportunity. A reserve program if you will. Find people willing to offer help if the worst should arise and we are in a war that requires more effort, and give them an incentive to agree to enlist. Incentives could include training in various trades that would allow them a job now, and an opportunity to contribute in a potential war effort. Another idea is to give the people a choice whether they want to fight in a certain war. So instead of drafting them say "Look, this is what's going on and we need your help", and allow the men and women to decide for themselves whether or not they would like to join the effort.</p> <p>Personally I don't believe in the idea of war. I feel that a majority of confrontations could be solved diplomatically, if we were willing to go that route. We as a country have been known to throw our weight around and upset other countries to the point where they attack us. We see it as an act of terrorism, however they view it as retaliation. I'm not saying every instance can be summed up this easily but this has happened in the Middle East over oil. Now just because I don't personally believe in war doesn't mean it's going to stop. I understand it's not that simple. Hopefully we one day learn how to live without it, but for now I am glad to see that this issue is being addressed. The draft is a rather archaic system and we should be looking for new and better ways to encourage the people who are willing to enlist, enlist.</p> <p>I believe we should be shifting funds from weapons development, such as multi million/billion dollar aircrafts and missile systems, to providing a decent wage and proper pensions for those who do choose to enlist and have paid their dues. They deserve to have happy lives when they return, and if that means MDMA assisted psychotherapy, or easing their PTSD with cannabis, they should be allowed to explore those options without fear of being ostracized or locked up. If they just need some antidepressants and a therapist, that should be provided too. We should also be looking into those alternative methods more seriously as they do show quite promising results. In the end we should be looking to see how we can better help the soldier help our country, and reward them for doing so, instead of treating them as disposable and forgetting about them once they've served your cause.</p>
5/23/18	<p>Serving in the military should be kept voluntary. No one should be forced to serve if they are not so inclined. Do not reinstate the draft.</p>
5/23/18	<p>Service does not have inherent value. Under the guise of patriotism, young people (mostly poor and male) are taught how to kill for their country. To kill is not "service" but disservice. Poor and male young people need better options than choosing between low skill and low pay jobs and a stint or career in the military. Free college tuition or non-military federal service that pays a living wage are all better options than military service.</p>
5/23/18	<p>If there is a draft, you need to be honest and tell people they are working for corporations and being paid by tax dollars. Their mission is to kill innocents and steal the resources of what ever country we decide to invade for the corporations. You want to know how to get people to enlist. Stop</p>

	fighting and killing innocent humans. Only ask if our country is being attacked. Until then i will continue to tell any young person that is considering joining, the truth. Which is what stops them from joining.
5/23/18	<p>Our military should be populated by the men and women who attend military academies. They are the ones who support the military industrial complex.</p> <p>Conflicts needs to be fought by the people who have a vested interest not poor white and black people who traditionally have fought rich white mens wars.</p> <p>I would support a plan that has all young Americans be required to do public service but not fight wars.</p>
5/23/18	There hasn't been a necessary war in my lifetime. We have no right to sacrifice our children for the sake on profit and corporations. We have no tight to turn our children into murderers of civilians who are of no threat to us. I am sick and tired of seeing young people with ptsd.
5/23/18	Stop creating the problems because you have vested interests in conflict continuing and are creating it. We want a world of peace and did not come to this crazy planet where everything is backwards from what most people want. If anyone came to this country as the status quo has done to many other countries there response to this in totally appropriate. Many other cultures have great wisdom to learn from and the decision makers would do better to listen.
5/23/18	<p>Take a look at rising GI suicide rates for those who never even saw combat and you have your answer. Young people especially embrace a paradigm shift to a more peaceful, humanitarian, egalitarian, sustainable, progressive and especially NON-VIOLENT social democracy.</p> <p>No one wants people of impoverished nations planning jihad because of how we foul the air, water, land and political discourse in our government's unrelenting defense if the global cooperatocracy's rape of other nation's resources and economic enslavement of their people, just to foment conflict and sell arms to every side of every battle.</p> <p>WAKE UP!</p> <p>Register leaders of nations for a global truth and reconciliation project and young people will drop everything to help facilitate such a reckoning...Justice to indigenous peoples everywhere, criminal proceedings for the US, Israeli and Saudi and other illegitimate governments everywhere.</p>

	<p>Put people to work in service rebuilding our infrastructure and cleaning up and nourishing our natural environment - funded by the megacorporations who continue to profit from our denial of their absolute power and control. Dissolve puppet governments and tell the truth about the few families who own the worlds wealth and redistribute it to every global citizen...You will see people everywhere come out in droves to serve one another instead of profits.</p> <p>Banking, finance, insurance, real estate, advertising, tobacco, food products, arms, pesticide and most pharmaceutical manufacturers should be prosecuted and dissolved as per the writings of Prof. David Gil</p>
5/23/18	<p>A nation that fails to link military service with citizenship is a nation in peril. We are such a nation.</p> <p>Greg skavinski, Bethel Park, PA</p> <p>USMC 66 - 69',</p> <p>RVN 68 - 69'</p>
5/23/18	<p>I am opposed to draft registration and, of course, reintroduction of an actual draft. The true "national security" of the United States would be served by enlisting youth--both men and women-- to contribute to public works projects, not unlike what occurred during the Great Depression. Crumbling infrastructure, housing for the homeless, beautification projects: there is much to be done. Sending youth abroad to kill or be killed for US empire is not in the interest of most Americans.</p>

5/23/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. NO!2. Only in so much as selective service is abolished.3. The question SHOULD be how can the US decrease the NEED for these services.4. The barriers are philosophical for many, and for others it is the lack of care and faulty benefit programs on the other side of service after it has ended.5. The only inherent value of service comes from intrinsic motivation, not external reward. Peaceful protection and building peaceful interdependence and cooperation is the only truly valuable service.6. NO!7. Provide peaceful, non-coercive opportunities for building up communities at home, not for serving in defensive capacities that often are offensive in reality, abroad.
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5/23/18	<p>My wife's maternal grandfather was a WW I vet as was my father's only uncle.</p> <p>My father, his two brothers and his four brothers-in-law were WW II vets. My father's youngest sister's husband survived the B-24 raid on the Ploesti, Romania oil fields.</p> <p>My mother's two brothers and two brothers-in-law were WW II vets. Her youngest brother was at Hickham Field on December 7th. He was shot down at The Battle of Midway and survived. He was shot down a second time and survived that. He is currently a Cold War POW-MIA. He was the Flight Engineer on an RB-29 (44-61810) shot down by two Russian MiG-15's in June of 1952 while flying a classified recon mission off the coast of Vladivostok, Russia. He was awarded a Purple Heart and DFC.</p> <p>My mother's oldest brother served with the 9th ID in Europe. He earned a battlefield commission and was awarded a Purple Heart and Bronze Star. He helped liberate a concentration camp. My mother's middle sister's husband served in an Army tank battalion in Europe. My mother's youngest sister's husband served in the Army in the South Pacific. He is still alive in his 90's and is the most decent human being I have ever known.</p> <p>My wife's only brother is a 1968 West Point graduate and Nam vet. I served 2 tours there with the First Marine Division. My brother was a Lt. jg on the USS Newport News which provided naval gunfire support off the Vietnam coast in 1969. We were in-country together for about six months. We never told our parents until we both came home</p>
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My wife and I served a total of 55 years in the Intel Community. A small percentage of our careers were spent directly in harms way or pretty close to harms way. I had a "less than stellar" career. When I retired most of my senior managers were more interested in their next promotion than in supporting the mission. I'm convinced that neither of us would get hired today since political correctness is rampant in the federal bureaucracy.

When Vietnam Vets returned our government failed to welcome us home. This was a disgrace. And, since you can't change history, it will forever be a disgrace.

We have had 3 Baby Boomer presidents in my lifetime. Clinton, Bush and Trump (Elect a clown, expect a circus) all successfully avoided service in Vietnam. Only 9% of the 26 million men who came of draft age during Vietnam actually served there. This is the example we set for our kids most of which are too self-serving, spoiled and overweight to care.

I would not recommend military/public service to anyone today. Would you?

Greg Skavinski

Bethel Park, PA

5/23/18

1. (answer) only if the educational aspect of the utmost reputable service to mankind was present and available, regardless of borders or corporate or private interests. Let me put it to you this way, I'm not investing my heart where my heart is not. I have refused to bring any more children to your subjection. I will not participate in violent activities that steal resources we could both benefit from, but only to find solutions only.

2. Apparently. The strictest of physical and mental requirements are severely limiting your enrollments. If your standards for enrollment are so high, you must have reached a pinnacle of failure to find that a great percentage of your own population are malnourished or psychologically impaired. Could this be a passive way of telling you no? Maybe you should look into that. Perhaps you should ask for females to enlist to attend to all the citizens falling ill due to your repulsiveness. You choose pills.

3. Get some more empathetic and humanistic values for yourself. Actually start helping the world achieve all the good things in life, like openly teaching sciences and math, openly help build telecommunications for a greater amount of people across the globe. Oh yeah, thanks for the internet, but don't do the stupid thing like try to lock up information so you can charge for it. We all know that secrets are for profits, not people. I don't know. Again, stop with the weapons purchasing and refund the schools, the infrastructure projects. Stop eliminating populations and start building the proper means for their survival all over the world and MEAN IT!

4. No one wants to live in your commune like barracks or clean other people's urine off numerous latrines, so let's look at what mother's did for years without a choice. They cleaned other people's mess as if quiet maids for children and husbands. Are you so important we should quietly serve your childishness and unaccountability? If so, then you should take responsibility and clean up your own mess. I would say that the U.S. has many too busy trying to stay alive on main street, they already feel they are in service to survive.

	<p>5. No. None that I can see. So far you've added broadcast terrorism, microwaves and rc drones to a commercial market and a ton of pollution which is still yet another positive stint to your filthy activities and waste of various resources. Get in there and clean the bloody toilet!</p> <p>6. Yeah, it would be if we had a completely different goal to assist the world rather than try to control and contain and destroy it. But, until then...</p> <p>7. Why do you emphasize "young"? Are you some sort of pedophile? And, by the way I thought you had already enticed them with video games like Zombie Hunter and Shoot Them All Dead? I will not serve to kill. I will not raise a child to normalize to that mindset. I can only see serving the world supper as being at all a proper service.</p>
5/23/18	Please get rid of the draft, or require women to sign up too. I think there should be mandatory service though, like a choice of working for peace corps for a year, or americorps, or going into the military. MAKE THE DRAFT EQUAL OR ABOLISH IT
5/23/18	It has always been that the wealthy are supporting wars, but the rest of us fight them. A draft is absolutely a wrong turn for the US. The only time we would need a draft would be if we were invaded. Right now, when we send soldiers, it is for the US EMPIRE, which I believe is wrong.
5/23/18	<p>1. Absolutely 2. Definitely 3. Teach American History, in public schools, as it was taught fifty years ago.</p> <p>4. Physical and mental fitness. 5. Of course, military schools are some of the best in America, they teach technical and vocational skills (which we need), permits our youth the get physically fit, become mature, instills an appreciation of our nation and those that contribute to its security. 6. It is if you have the intestinal fortitude to implement it, and if you make it for all, not just a few. 7. The internet.</p>

5/23/18	<p>As a proud national service provider that engages AmeriCorps and Senior Corps volunteers in service to young children, Jumpstart supports efforts to make meaningful service opportunities attainable and affordable for all citizens.</p> <p>Jumpstart’s AmeriCorps members’ 53% of whom identify as people of color and 49% as first-generation college students’ serve 300 hours in preschool classrooms in under-resourced communities while attending college. Our members gain critical career skills while also supporting their families and education expenses through Federal Work Study and/or Segal Education Awards. Often, their service experience influences their career paths; in the 2016-17 program year, 76% of Jumpstart Corps members expressed interest in pursuing a graduate degree or career related to their service.</p> <p>Higher education plays an important role in national service. Not only does it provide an opportunity for students to combine academic learning with community engagement, but it can also inspire students to pursue future full-time service. Many institutions of higher education, including the more than 70 institutions with which Jumpstart partners, maintain an expectation of community service from their students, and many offer service learning courses as companion experiences to hands-on service so that students can learn the fundamentals of community engagement. The national service community should continue to promote this value by expanding part-time programs on campuses and increasing the availability of service learning.</p> <p>Through strong local partnerships, national service is also a powerful force to address entrenched inequalities in communities across the country. Through national service, Jumpstart links together families, early education centers, students, and colleges and universities to build upon local assets and strengthen every community where we serve. National service efforts should continue to build bridges and spread the promise of opportunity to all.</p> <p>To deepen participation in service, we recommend ensuring service opportunities are affordable to all. Jumpstart supports providing greater incentives to serve both part- and full-time and making higher education more affordable and accessible for all students so that servicemembers are unburdened by student debt and able to serve while in school. The Commission should seek out opportunities to work with Congress and states to: enhance AmeriCorps and Senior Corps benefits, including the Segal Education Award; expand Federal Work Study and increase the percentage of funds that colleges and universities are required to dedicate to community service activities; protect and expand Public Service Loan Forgiveness and other methods to relieve student debt; promote free community college programs; and increase Pell grants and continue to raise rates with inflation. These changes will allow the leaders of the next generation, no matter their background, to experience the benefits of service.</p>
5/23/18	No draft. We are getting into wars that are illegal. Stop.

5/23/18	<p>Please reinstate the death lottery, er pardon me, the draft. I think white supremacy needs to make a comeback and it would be a good way to do some ethnic cleansing and worsen/better classism. Also, unenthusiastic soldiers are less effective and if you ever try to annex Canada (I'm Canadian) we would be at an advantage.</p> <p>This is a joke. Just like the concept of reinstating a death lottery. Please do what you can to prevent your country from becoming awful.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Kyle Davidson, concerned canadian.</p>
5/23/18	<p>No draft. Our survival as a nation would require getting out of the war business. The US has remained engaged in wars almost constantly, almost always by choice, for over a century, and it has reached the point where it's destroying this country.</p>
5/23/18	<p>Congress has abandoned its responsibility to stop a president from sending troops into combat on a whim. This country has troops and or military bases in almost every nation on earth. If any thing we should be bringing troops home and closing bases. The Pentagon cannot be audited because their bookkeeping is lousy.</p> <p>There are those who think the volunteer is sufficient for any military quotas that are needed is incorrect. Our volunteer military is overburdened with deployments to nearly every country on earth plus having multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. The military are over extended.</p> <p>I do not, at this time, support restarting the draft.</p>
5/23/18	<p>I am a veteran who has seen firsthand how unfair the current system is. We call it "poverty draft"--the poorest people enlist to get money for college because they think it'll help them get ahead, but often have to fight for the benefits to which they're entitled or end up further down the road of the situation they're trying to escape. We're told we're serving our country when we're really exporting death and destruction for the benefit of the politicians and the one percent. The draft has never worked in history and should not be reinstated. It should be ended. American people know what's best for them, and that includes which wars to fight. If we were invaded by a foreign power, we would defend our country, but if ordered to expand the American Empire, we would resist by means ranging from low morale to desertion. As Smedley Butler observed, war is a racket. To hell with war and to hell with the draft! End it for everyone!</p>

5/23/18	<p>As a military draft or draft contingency I STILL THINK A DRAFT IS NEEDED AND HIGHLY DESIREABLE. Furthermore, there definitely needs to be modifications made to the draft categories and how they are applied and when. There is at least by some accounts less than 1% of the population serving in the military. This is appalling. To increase participation in critical skills areas. It should be made a law that anyone entering the skill area so designated as critical is REQUIRED to register for the draft and SERVE at least 2 years in the military in that designated critical skill area. Barriers to military service national or public service are ridiculous ELIMINATE every one of them and specifically make it clear that participation in one of those areas is an ABSOLUTE requirement for everyone REGARDLESS OF SEX OR GENDER. Set a time limit say for 2 years after person reaches 18 you MUST enter into one of those areas AS WELL AS REGISTER FOR THE DRAFT. If you get the benefits or desire the benefits of being an American citizen then you do this without question or EVASION. IF you do not..no benefits in any area of society for the rest of your life!. As for the increasing the propensity to serve. Make the young Americans aware of what THEY LOSE IF THEEY DO NOT SERVE and what it means for their futures (assuming that the measures listed above are enacted.). BTW in point of fact...I VOLUNTARILY entered service in 1968 during the Vietnam War.knowing full well what could happen. I retired in 1994 after 26 years of service in the AF and then with the Marines as a corpsman. MY brother was a CO in the draft and I supported that. The fact that the military is facing a serious manpower shortage and capabilities is completely unnecessary. It is about time American society *manned up* and realized that we are doing too much with very little and sooner or later its going to bite us hard. The joking motto is we the unwilling, led by the ungrateful, are doing too much with so little we are now qualified to do anything with nothing! There is a lot of truth in that. Our supplies are keeping us in the game but they are approaching the zero point. We have material shortages and ships and other equipment waiting repair and restoration that are being scrapped or raided for parts to keep shrinking forces active. We build fancier and fancier equipment add more bells and whistles to it and wonder why the equipment keeps breaking down. Here is a clue we need manpower to maintain the equipment and the material to do it. We waste billions of dollars to get fancier equipment and cant maintain what we do have..we are reaching the point of no return. We are hard pressed to fight even one war let alone 2 and half simultaneously. Why? Lack of equipment, worn out material, no manpower. EVERYONE HAS an excuse why they cant have a draft or be in one and most of the excuses are plain and simple copout on the responsibilities each of us has to the USA.</p>
5/23/18	<p>I have heard that the deadline for comments has been extended. Is that so, and, if so, when is the new deadline.</p>
5/23/18	<p>We don't need a military draft. Militarism is destroying democracy and undermining USA honor and reputation throughout the world. We need to augment our skills and capacities for negotiation, conflict resolution, identifying and making amends for harm caused to people of our own and other nations through military and other means by which the USA has interfered with and coopted the people and institutions of other nations, including through promoting disbelief in climate change and through increasing pollution and carbon release throughout the planet.</p> <p>If anything we need a draft of citizens to spend time developing sustainable infrastructure projects. Service proposals like this could motivate young people who prefer not to devote their early adult years to killing, maiming, polluting, and suffering death and disability, but instead to make our nation and our planet into a healthier, safer, more cooperative world to live in.</p>

5/23/18	<p>The U.S. should only go to war to protect our borders and defend the Bill of Rights. Any other excuse for war is a "racket" according to Major General Smedley Butler, USMC.</p>
5/23/18	<p>I urge you to end the registration for the draft now! Mandatory service is not necessary. The military would succeed in recruiting if they take a stand as a peace-keeping force and totally abandon military confrontation with countries. Our country is nothing but a war-mongering mess, always getting deeper and deeper into conflicts we never get out of. Diplomacy is the ultimate answer, not constant war!</p>
5/24/18	<p>1.)No it isn't! There are many who would fight for America Willingly! 2.)No! 3.) Don't have a war soon and allow the population to recoup From the long wars in the middle East!!! 4.)Mental illness Should be one! They won't do well in the Military! Any Branch! 5.) Other than protection of this Country! There are None really! There really isn't much honour in it, as members Mr.Trump's administration have shown with the "Disgusting Comments" About "American War Hero" "Sen.John McCain!" 6.) No! Not everyone is fit to join the Service! Except Mr.Trump's two Sons! The Republican Sons and Daughters too! It would be a valuable and feasible experience for all of them! 7.) There isn't anything that can do that! They have to "want to fight for this Country!" There are those who will too! They have to be willing to fight, die, be detrimentally injured, Lost limbs,Forgotten on the Battlefields or in the Countries they are fighting in!, Bodies never brought home to their families, Die in a plane crashes, lost at sea, Taken prisoner and tortured,etc! War is Hell for a reason! I remember WWII and what my grandfather went through! We were lucky! Gramps came home! So many others drafted to fight did not!!!</p>
5/24/18	<p>No military draft! I've been through this process already during the Vietnam War. I am against war as a solution for everything anyway, and I'd definitely be against a draft to force people to risk their lives and safety killing others.</p>
5/24/18	<p>The basic problem is not a current draft plan or a contingency plan or any other to do with conscription. The problem is the enormity of the U.S, military system, hundreds of military bases all over the world, and the constant resort to military venturing, interfering, and threatening of violence to get what the paranoid U.S. military leaders want to see happen to make them more comfortable: that is, too much war-making.</p> <p>Reduce the enormously over-powered and paranoid military leadership first; then the questions of draft and conscription planning can be addressed rationally. I do not want a draft or conscription that violates anyone's conscientious objection to militarism, war, or organized killing of any kind.</p>

5/24/18	Obliging people to serve in the military is not obliging them to serve the country; rather, it is a way to force people to collaborate in unwanted and unjust wars.
5/24/18	All these questions presuppose a continuation of the military-industrial complex which necessitates one war after another. Stop warmaking! Then these questions will be obsolete. OF
5/24/18	End the draft for all.
5/25/18	The draft is legalized slavery Abolish for all.
5/25/18	<p>1. No, there are plenty who would willingly go.</p> <p>5. No, it's suicide particularly for the poor who enlist.</p> <p>6. No. End all wars!</p> <p>7. End all pointless wars based on greed.</p>
5/25/18	<p>1. The draft is no longer necessary; although the people who "voluntarily" sign up are usually forced to by economic necessity.</p> <p>2. Yes, eliminate it.</p> <p>3. We spend 25 times all other countries on the military. We do not need MORE people, we need smarter spending and focused budgets.</p> <p>4. There is a war mongering president. Why on earth would anyone want to fight a war to line his pockets?</p> <p>5. It used to, but no longer. That ship sailed decades ago.</p> <p>6. No. What happened to state's rights? We have an illegally elected POTUS and SCOTUS. The us does NOT represent my interests any longer, why should I sacrifice my children for illegal, anti-UN behavior.</p>

	<p>7. Again, overspending and overpopulation of our military will not help us. We need focused spending on what truly matters. More technology will decrease the need for more bodies. Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. I was involved in a DIA proposal...the emphasis on human capital was astounding. Not a single large corporation would ever ask for human capital when technical resources could solve the problem. The military needs to modernize.</p>
5/25/18	<p>Stop drafting the poor to die for corporate profits and plaguing the world with U.S. imperialism.</p> <p>#NotInMyName #NotMyChildren</p>
5/25/18	<p>The draft only encourages war.</p>
5/25/18	<p>I oppose forced conscription for a variety of reasons. No one should have to fight in wars of empire and aggression. It is not democracy, but a form of slavery and tyranny.</p>
5/25/18	<p>I oppose a military draft. It is always poor and powerless people who fight and die for the benefit of the rich.</p>
5/25/18	<p>Admit it - wars are for greed and profit ONLY. And, the profit goes to very few. This country hasn't stopped exploiting since its inception. First 90% of the locals were taken out. Next, it went abroad and hasn't stopped yet. Millions upon millions upon millions die and suffer for the greed of a few..</p> <p>NO DRAFT NO WARS NO EXPLOITATION</p> <p>Wanted - a society that respects everyone - a society that treats everyone fairly - a society that ensures that everyone is fed, has a place to live, receives adequate healthcare and NO WARS.</p>

5/26/18	<p>Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? NO IT ISN'T</p> <p>Are modifications to the selective service system needed? YES, IT NEEDS TO BE PUBLIC SERVICE GENERALLY</p> <p>How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? BASIC TRAINING IS TORTURE WHICH IS WHY INTELLIGENT PEOPLE AVOID IT</p> <p>What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? IT NEEDS TO BE MANDATORY PUBLIC SERVICE WITH MILITARY OPTIONAL</p> <p>Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? SERVICE IS ALTRUISTIC BUT KILLING IS NOT AND NEVER WILL BE</p> <p>Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible?</p> <p>How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve?</p>
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5/26/18	<p>Docket No. 05-2018-01,</p> <p>I submitted this comment once but without docket number. Here it is again.</p> <p>Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security?</p> <p>NO IT IS NOT</p> <p>Are modifications to the selective service system needed?</p> <p>YES, IT NEEDS TO BE PUBLIC SERVICE GENERALLY</p> <p>How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation?</p> <p>BASIC TRAINING IS TORTURE, WHICH IS WHY INTELLIGENT CITIZENS AVOID IT</p> <p>What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service?</p> <p>SEE ABOVE. MANDATORY PUBLIC SERVICE FOR ALL CITIZENS WITH A MILITARY OPTION WILL BE POPULAR.</p>
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	<p>Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it?</p> <p>PUBLIC SERVICE IS ALTRUISTIC. KILLING PEOPLE IS NOT AND NEVER WILL BE,</p> <p>Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible?</p> <p>YES IT IS</p> <p>How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve?</p> <p>PUT THE EMPHASIS ON ACTUAL PUBLIC SERVICE AND ELIMINATE THE EROSION OF THE PERSONALITY THAT IS BASIC TRAINING. STOP THE WARS AND KILLING.</p>
5/26/18	<p>“Our nation is at its best when we are striving toward shared goals with a common vision,” The chairman of this commission is correct, of course, in his statement. My guess is if you polled citizens of the U.S., the majority does not share a common vision of enabling more foreign wars by reinstating conscription. What has the 15 year war in Iraq done for our security? Why is there never any discussion of how to attain peace for the globe, a common vision that has been long been a goal of humanity? No to conscription of the flower of our youth in ill-conceived and expensive forays that kill and maim the youth of other countries, while enriching the congressional military industrial complex President Eisenhower warned of.</p>
5/26/18	<p>There should not be a draft. All wars have been caused by manipulations of the rich and elites. Wars are for their purposes only. The US empire has been built by stealing land and resources from innocent people. It should not be defended, especially by drafted people.</p>
5/26/18	<p>I'm a veteran. A draft would lead to much worse unrest than we saw in the 1960s. Only the poverty draft from the Great Recession and the extremely unequal recovery from recession that caused massive income inequality, prevented our already losing these wars that in 17 years have proven to be endless & winless. A draft would cause much higher US casualties because it takes more than a year to train for today's high tech battlefield. No politician wanting re-election would vote for a more than 2 yr. draft. A service requirement w/civilian job options as well as military might work, IF we find a way to end our current wars! Nobody's dumb enough to cooperate if the feds can't be trusted to not switch them over if war demands the warm bodies. The war budget sucks the economy dry, leaving little for education, needed social problems. War erodes our sense of democracy, shared values, hope for a better future for our children. We are slipping backwards. As long as we have US troops fighting on Muslim soil, we will create more</p>

	<p>terrorists than we can possibly kill. Our Air Force and Navy can defeat any foreign force trying to attack the US. Osama bin Laden's strategy behind the attacks of 9/11/01, according to captured Al Qaida documents, was to try to sucker the US into becoming trapped in wars in Muslim lands. It's succeeding.</p>
5/26/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1, The draft is unnecessary. We need to end the perpetual wars we're involved in worldwide and only institute the draft if needed to protect the country. 2. If selective service is continued, women need to be included. Provisions must be made for conscientious objectors of any gender. 3. To increase participation in the military, stop using young men of color as cannon fodder in our perpetual wars. Provide them and veterans with all the services that they need. I believe more young people would participate in national and public service if they were treated with respect and shown ways that their service would make a difference. Most young people want to feel they are improving the world. 4. There are barriers for people of color, those who are differently abled, transgendered individuals, LGBTQ, non-Christians and immigrants. Some of those barriers would fall with education of those in the position of recruiting participation. 5. Service has inherent value as it builds on making community and uplifting all people. 6. Americans are inherently individualist who have lost their sense of community, so it would be a difficult sell to have all Americans participate in a mandatory service requirement. I believe it has value especially if people were able to pick service that fits with their ethical beliefs. 7. Stop treating young people as stupid or disposable. They get both these messages from members of Congress, the president, law-enforcement and the NRA. They are our future and deserve to be listened to and supported.

5/26/18	<p>I urge you to end the Selective Service program entirely. We do not need to have a system in place to send young people of America to other countries. The volunteer army has been sufficient. The only need for a draft should be in an extreme emergency due to an attack on US soil. If that occurs, a draft can be quickly created, as it was during the US Civil War and World War 2.</p> <p>It is time for the fear of being drafted to end. Close down the selective service program.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
5/27/18	<p>The primary barrier to public service is, I believe, the lack of interest our government (WH, Congress, Judiciary) displays, when designing and implementing public policies and legislation.</p> <p>The vast majority of the people have little effective control over policy. You can't ignore the peoples' interest when designing and implementing policies that affect their quality of life and then expect them to serve in the interest of the few who do benefit from government actions.</p>
5/27/18	<p>The notion of a military draft is unethical and in beneficial. A professional military is far more defective, with people who WANT to be there.</p>
5/27/18	<p>Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? Yes. At least a draft contingency is essential to our national security. On some future day, the US will again be involved in a major war with peer or near-peer competitors. Such a war will eventually devastate our professional military, leaving us dependent on conscripts. Consider that countries around the world are emulating the US example and professionalizing their militaries. This means that our own professional military is going to face tougher and tougher opponents in the future, opponents that may be one-for-one matches with our own. Combat with such enemies will rapidly attrit our own professional military (as well as theirs). Eventually, all combatants will be dependent on their ability to mobilize their citizenry for war. That is why a draft contingency is essential to our national security.</p>

5/27/18	<p>How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? I'd like to address the civil service aspect of this question. This is a political problem, first and foremost. For many years, it has been good politics to ridicule and belittle civil servants at all levels of government. Politicians who mock civil servants as lazy, overpaid, and intrusive on the rights of our citizens have had little trouble getting elected. Instead of treating civil servants as people who do important civic work that benefits society, we treat them as parasites. ("Government isn't the solution. Government is the problem.") Of course our best and brightest feel little attraction to do such work. We won't see increased participation in civil service until we change this perception. We need a concerted effort to build up the social standing of civil service as an honorable and contributory career path for any citizen.</p>
5/27/18	<p>I have long believed that Congress should be required to re-instate the draft (without exemption other than provable mental or physical disability severe enough to make it possible to serve in any capacity) whenever our troops are put in harms way for more than 60 days. This will insure that the public will rise up and resist any war they deem unnecessary. It will be the people's will, not the politicians, that rules the day. A professional army is the antithesis of Democracy. If we go to war every family should, at the very least, be subject to having one of theirs placed in the fray.</p>
5/28/18	<p>End the draft now.</p>
5/28/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The obvious answer is 'not if we have enough volunteers'. Instead of a 'draft', why not make public service for two years after high school a requirement with the military being one of the choices? I'm not sure that most high school students have enough exposure to opportunities for volunteerism while in school...and, if exposed, might choose a career based on what they have observed. 2. See #1 3. Make service in needed areas more attractive by rewarding them with incentives...such as free/reduced tuition for so many years of service. 4. Financial security...people have to be able to provide for their families. Insecurities about job retention...government positions are at the mercy of the government...programs/money for programs get cut all of the time. 5. For some people, yes. Some people just are naturally drawn to opportunities to help others. Their need to help is stronger than the need to not help. It's what makes them feel good about themselves. They get pleasure giving/doing for others. For others, they don't have a need to help in order to feel good about themselves. 6. See #1. I would like to be able to say that it wasn't necessary, but I think we might have created a world where it is necessary because a lot of people aren't drawn to serve. And, if truth be told, I think that we have created a world where a lot of people think that they deserve to be served themselves.

	<p>The value of a mandatory service requirement might expose more people to opportunities to serve that they would not otherwise know about which could possibly lead to lifetime commitments to serve. Feasibility would depend on how it is introduced into the system.</p> <p>7. Young people are lead by role models. Their role models are the athletes, movie stars, singers, etc. If their role models kneel during the National Anthem, disrespect the president, disrespect the police, write/sing songs with disgusting lyrics, etc., then getting them to volunteer is going to be difficult. We have to create an atmosphere where the role models are the people who volunteer and work in positive ways to make a difference.</p>
5/28/18	<p>In view of the many wars & conflicts we have engaged in since Vietnam, 2 things come to mind: #1. Those fights were carried out by volunteers. #2. Most of those fights were unnecessary.</p> <p>The Vietnam War was itself unnecessary. What made it particularly sickening for Americans was that so many of the killed were draftees who didn't believe in the cause.</p> <p>The social turmoil spawned during Vietnam almost tore the country apart. The combination of an unnecessary war and the draft were the ingredients that nearly set off a new civil war.</p> <p>The government must be mindful that it makes mistakes with respect to foreign military involvement. And these involvements, if maintained via conscription, are extremely risky domestically.</p> <p>Given how divided the nation is today and the government's track record of miscalculating threats, re-instituting the draft is just too dangerous a proposition.</p>
5/28/18	

	No national service linked to the military until the US stops illegally invading other countries. Only in the service of national defense should any citizen be required to put their life on the line.
5/28/18	As a military veteran (enlisted 1957-1960, USMC), I am opposed to a military draft and forced registration, which themselves are a denial of our freedom. Instead, we should stop these regime-change wars which do not make us safe. In fact, these wars themselves threaten our security. What we need is what Dr. Martin Luther King called for, a radical revolution of values.
5/28/18	<p>Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? NO</p> <p>Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Eliminate it</p> <p>How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? Take money from the 1% and give it to the public.</p> <p>What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? Too dangerous, low pay.</p> <p>Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? NO</p>

	<p>Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? NO</p> <p>How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? It shouldn't.</p>
5/28/18	Our military is way too large compared to all other countries. It's purpose is not defense but offense in the name of conquest for the profit of the few at the expense of the working class and the victims on the receiving end of our violence. No, we do not need a draft. We need to change our priorities from endless war to peace through fairness and justice. The current paradigm will lead the human race to extinction. Is that what you want? It sure seems like it.
5/28/18	The military draft is not necessary. If a man or woman wants to serve the country in this way, that is their choice. They can also serve the country through other kinds of public service. Service definitely has value for learning skills, learning about society and jobs, and getting a broader sense of other areas of the country and the world. I think mandatory service for young people is a requirement and the values acquired would enhance this country. Making service a requirement is recommended.
5/29/18	The draft is a contradiction to the freedom we value in this country.
5/29/18	draft is unfair & unnecessary

5/29/18	<p>It is long past time to end draft registration once and for all.</p> <p>Don't expand the draft to women. End it for everyone.</p> <p>No national service linked to the military--including immigration enforcement.</p> <p>Until the US is invaded by a foreign power, stop pretending that the draft is about anything other than empire.</p> <p>I support encouraging voluntary national non-military service with one year of free, in-state public higher education for every year of service at a wage of \$15 an hour and free housing.</p>
5/31/18	<p>Hello, I am the Executive Director for a current Congressional Advisory Panel. One of our stellar staff members is interested in working on your staff. Please contact me at: [REDACTED]</p>
6/1/18	<p>The soldiers who fight for globalist greed are so deeply battered physically, mentally, and spiritually. End the war. Stop the draft.</p>

6/4/18	Dear Commission Members, Last month I wrote to you to voice my opposition to mandatory registration for the Selective Service. Afterward, I published an essay, "Conscientious Objectors and Draft Registration: A Timely Lesson from WWI." It links today's mandatory draft registration with the drafting of conscientious objectors during World War I, including my grandfather. Both a hundred years ago and today, conscientious objectors have been severely punished and penalized for their beliefs. This needs to change. Please read the essay here: Caution-https://www.tikkun.org/nextgen/conscientious-objectors-and-draft-registration-a-timely-lesson-from-wwi < Caution-https://www.tikkun.org/nextgen/conscientious-objectors-and-draft-registration-a-timely-lesson-from-wwi > Kind regards, Cynthia Wachtell
6/4/18	Send YOUR offspring, and all CEO's take minimum wage until your stinking war is over. Oh, and then get Veterans Administration healthcare . . . if you can!
6/6/18	Service should never be mandatory in a nation that is supposedly free. And war is for the weak.
6/6/18	The government needs to take better care of our military before, during, and after they return, including taking great care of their families while they are out on duty. Provide better healthcare and mental care for all involved.
6/6/18	There is absolutely no need for a draft.
6/6/18	There is absolutely no need for a draft.
6/6/18	It has been proven time and again that we need trained military personnel, especially as warfare becomes more technologically driven. Just calling people up is not in the best interest of the country.
6/8/18	LETTER TO SELECTIVE SERVICE JUNE 2018 I do see an inevitable need for a contingency, volunteer military selective service program. However, and to a greater need (not want) a more comprehensive national, 2-yr., public service program that would be best if all 18-25 yr. olds male and female could participate in. I have witnessed and lived through 3 generations as a native born citizen of the United States of America. I have been a teacher and a physician, a parent, a volunteer in many capacities throughout those years. I have watched our country through many administrations go to war from Vietnam to our continued meddling in other nations affairs then in retrospect discover that we were not wanted or needed in most of them. We seem to be more interested in others affairs than our own to the detriment of our own health and status as would be leaders in the world for freedom, peace, justice and abundance. I have seen our military budget swell to 60% of our national budget! We are not helping lessen conflict in the world, we are apparently participating in creating more conflict in the world as well as in our own country! We have an opportunity to change that through a revised Selective Service or new institution/law with new means to a new end. To answer the questions: Does service have inherent value? And, Is mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable and feasible? And, How can we increase participation?, I propose... Young people (all people really) when given an opportunity to participate in something greater than themselves particularly for a COMMON GOOD, are and will become significantly better people and citizens. Common sense tells us that. Those that participate in achieving Eagle Scout, those that go on a mission of service whether religious or secular, those that volunteer to help others whether in family or community, discover in the process they feel good about themselves, those they serve and the organization that they are a part of. Our country has basic self-esteem issues. We are losing a once noble status in our own eyes as well as the worlds' eyes. Our infrastructure is collapsing. Our millenials now need positive direction in rapidly changing climates of economic, social and planetary natures. Basically, we need more meaning and purpose in our lives. We need to increase our connectedness. We need to see ourselves as a nation, as a community. A universal system of mandatory service that is based in choice could solve many of these issues. Choice to serve our disadvantaged, disabled, our aged needs. Choice to serve infrastructure needs. Choice to serve our national parks, our land, air and water needs. Choice to serve our military needs. Choice in serving! Our push to send our high school graduates to college right away is noble but perhaps

	<p>misguided. In this age for probably many reasons social psychologists could explain, young people don't know what they want or are good at at 18 years old. I have spoken to many college professors and get universal agreement that they notice that their best students are ones that have already been in the military, been in the working world, been on missions of service, been in the Peace Corps/Americorps, etc. I saw that with my own daughter after she went on a summer service mission to help in an elementary school in a 3rd world country. I saw that in other families whose sons and daughters did similar adventures. I saw it with kids who took 'gap' year(s). Even I am proud of having many work experiences as a young person in common labor (for me, janitorial, construction, food service). I would propose that this is almost universally true. Any system such as this should best include a strong national pride component. It should include some sort of badge of honor. It should include opportunities for leadership (maybe in helping to create and maintain this program). It should be known that evaluations could be a part that could lend itself to resume building. It should be mentored in some fashion to help young people discover their talents. A two-year program would be substantial for all able bodied and minded as well as those less so! All genders. This will build a responsible path to helping grow contributing national citizens. This could be seen as adventure learning and experience for it would test and challenge.</p>
6/10/18	Abolish the draft.
6/13/18	End this program. We are a volunteer country. This registration is illegal & immoral.
6/13/18	<p>Please tell me the location and the time of the public hearing in Iowa City on June 26-27, as I plan to attend since I will be in Iowa at that time. Please email me at [REDACTED]</p> <p>thank you. Gary A. Brandt, Rochester, NY</p>
6/15/18	As much as I may fear the potential implementation of the Selective Service System due to domestic or world events, I still feel that it is a necessary component of the U.S. National Security. No country or individual can foresee all future obstacles, and this system is one way to help cut down the time needed to be able to address a future situation. Often, timing is everything and trying to put a system in place, work out any issues and mobilize an effective response in the middle of a National crisis is not the best plan for success. Having established systems, routines, volunteers and resources already in place provides a better platform to launch from. ~ Christine
6/16/18	syren furniture

	http://officefurniture.center/%D9%85%DB%8C%D8%B2-%D9%85%D8%AF%DB%8C%D8%B1%DB%8C%D8%AA-%D9%88-%DA%A9%D9%86%D9%81%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%86%D8%B3/
6/16/18	syren furniture http://syren.vip/%D9%85%D8%A8%D9%84%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%A7%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%B1%DB%8C-%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%AA%DB%8C%D8%B3/
6/16/18	syren furniture http://nilper.center/product/%D8%B5%D9%86%D8%AF%D9%84%DB%8C-%D9%86%DB%8C%D9%84%D9%BE%D8%B1-nilper-%DA%A9%D8%AF-sm803ei/
6/18/18	How much are these people paid, and why don't they answer their mail? Rosalind Heid
6/18/18	Why don't you have a mailing address? Rosalind Heid
6/21/18	A country should have an army for protection and not aggression!
6/24/18	Neither a military draft nor a "draft contingency" is needed for our security. Either would tempt our government to interfere militarily even more than it already so recklessly does in the affairs of foreign countries, and would facilitate the maintenance of many unneeded bases all over the world. We do not need increased participation in military service. We have an immense military. We do, however, need something like the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s, to provide desperately needed jobs and training while repairing our shamefully neglected infrastructure. Service in such an agency would not need to be mandatory. There would not be the slightest difficulty in finding more than enough people to join it.
6/26/18	"War will exist until that distant day when the conscientious objector enjoys the same reputation and prestige that the warrior does today." (John F. Kennedy)
6/26/18	Women registering helps create a sense of citizenship. To create a culture of service we must thread service through K-12, college, and in job sites. Ideally, we would offer 2 yrs of military, national or community service, followed by scholarships for college, job training, apprenticeships for all citizens, like Israel and European countries.
6/26/18	I would like to ask the Commissioners what they see are the advantages of living in Iowa and rural America. Especially small Iowa rural America. (1) Rural fuie (2) distance Book "Hallowing out the middle." Carr/Pat Kelafas

6/26/18	MORE resources to support many more AmeriCorps members. More resources to make AmeriCorps programs more visible to youth of our nation. More service opportunities and resources for rural states like IA.
6/26/18	I don't think we should ever "draft" women for the services. I believe men are called as protectors and providers. That is not to say that women can't or shouldn't volunteer to serve, but they should not be forced or compelled.
6/26/18	The rigidity in schools (i.e. excessive testing, less free time, less time spent outside, etc.) makes it difficult to cultivate a school community that encourages civic engagement. If you want young people to be engaged, the culture must provide the opportunity for its citizens to do so.
6/26/18	Iowa high schools have a honor to give to students for a certain amount of volunteer hours. I believe this is a great eye-opener for youth to connect with their home areas and realize opportunities are around them.
6/26/18	How do we highlight and support the skills and educational opportunities that service can provide? Answer: funding, resources, and acknowledgement. Service brings communities together and binds the core values of the nation.
6/26/18	How can we increase the perceived value of serving with AmeriCorps or other public service? Not the financial incentive, but the perceived value similar to the respect given to veterans. Also, how can we help AmeriCorps service members gain transferable job skills?
6/27/18	What is everyone saying on your comment line? Please post that information. I am very interested in the concept of serving my country, but we need to get it together. Thanks. Roz Heid
6/28/18	Eliminate the tax on the Ed Award. Have service learning be a requirement for graduation. Allow Commission to place national service members without the need of subgrantees. Increase service opportunities AmeriCorps increase to 250,000 slots. Increase the AmeriCorps Ed Award to equal 1 year of college. Allow the Ed Award to be fully transferable.
6/28/18	(1) Public sector employees need to be protected by strong union representation. (2) Before considering selective service/draft, please reinstate LGBT servicemembers who have chosen this as a career. End DADT and end President Trump's ban on transgender servicemembers. Also restore VA funding. (3) National service should be instituted as a jobs program in the style of the New Deal. Put Jobless Americans to work rebuilding the US. (4) Public funding for NEA must be restored and college funding. (5) Hire teachers.
6/28/18	No more army or other military expense of people or other benefits!
6/28/18	increase service opportunities. AmeriCorps increase to 250,000 slots. Increase the AmeriCorps Ed Award to equal 1 year of college. Allow the Ed Award to be fully transferable.

6/28/18 Ladies and gentleman of the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service, my name is Matthew Nicodemus. I was born on June 9, 1960. I presently live in Boulder, Colorado. I've been a draft registrant refuser since mandatory sign-up with Selective Service was revived in June of 1980. It has now been about six months since I first learned of your existence, stated goals, and activities. On April 19, I spoke at the public hearing you held in Denver, Colorado, where I related my own history of opposition and resistance to the conscription system in this country and advised that, if the U.S. government attempted to bring back the draft, it would be met with noncompliance that is already massive and would only grow larger and stronger. Today, having studied your informational materials, followed your series of public "conversations" across the country, communicated personally with your staff, and heard from a number of individuals and organizations that have communicated with you, I must state that you are not being open and honest with Americans about your intentions and plans, and that you are almost certainly intending to recommend to Congress in 2020 that the nation once again have a military draft, this time through a compulsory national service program. I believe that you are doing this because the United States' requirements for personnel to maintain global military dominance and wage continuous, permanent war around the world are not being met. Our armed forces are unable to recruit and retain enough volunteers, so you envision solving that problem under the guise of a program of force public 'service' which promotes a variety of different compulsory 'service' options but makes the military 'service' option especially attractive to conscripts, likely by requiring a shorter term of 'service' and/or offering higher salaries and benefits to those choosing the military option. The news release about this hearing which I wrote and disseminated yesterday to Chicago-area news media - I've brought copies for you - describes some of the evidence upon which I base my claims about the direction in which the Commission is heading. Two specific pieces of that evidence which I'll note here: (1) Bill Galvin of the Center on Conscience and War in Washington D.C. communicated to me on June 25, "We have talked to the staff of the Commission at length, and on eting the commission seems interested in is some sort of mandatory national service program. Military service would be a part of it, but it would not be military conscription per se." (2) Edward Hasbrouck, the founder of Resisters.info, responded, "That's also the impression I get from the reports on the closed-door briefings and report the Commission has received, which I got in response to my FOIA request." If you are indeed considering recommending a plan of compulsory national service, and if you're considering recommending to Congress special measures to obtain for the military the trained professionals it requires in mission-critical areas including health care, STEM, cyber, and foreign languages, I urge you to be honest and direct about that with the public for the duration of your mandated term, and to be responsible to them and to Congress by seeking out and paying close attention to the people who may be forced into 'service' by a national service draft or other process of conscription. Due to the limitations of time this evening, I've only state my points in most basic form. I will submit expanded written versions of this testimony and my April 19 statement to you before the September 30 deadline. Thank you very much. Note: Matt Nicodemus was born in 1960 and for the most part raised in Evanston, Illinois. In the fall of 1978, as a freshmen at Stanford University, Nicodemus joined over 100 fellow students in signing a declaration to President Jimmy Carter's attorney general, Griffen Bell, stating that, aware of the potential legal consequences (maximum 5 years in federal prison and a fine up to \$25,000), they would refuse to participate in any way with U.S. military conscription if it was reinstated. From that day on, Nicodemus became an increasingly dedicated organizer of opposition to the draft. In June of 1980, with the mass compulsory draft registration of males born in and after 1960 ordered by President Carter the previous fall following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan set to begin, Nicodemus joined fellow resisters Edward Hasbrouck and Sasha Levine in a Chicago news conference, one of multiple simultaneous events across the country, where they announced their intention to refuse to sign up with Selective Service; the news conference received national media attention. Nicodemus later mailed copies of a draft resistance speech he'd made at Stanford to President Ronald Reagan and a host of elected and appointed government officials at the highest levels. His parents, Chicago Sun-Times investigative report and editor Charles Nicodemus and Virginia Nicodemus, then working for a furniture industry professional association, totally

	<p>supported his resistance to war and were, with him, co-founders of Evanston Against Registration and the Draft. Virginia Nicodemus joined a delegation of peace activists who met with then-U.S. attorney Dan Webb to request that he devote his office's resources to going after criminals endangering society rather than conscientious young nonregistrants who were trying prevent war's murders. Webb never indicted any draft law violators. Matt Nicodemus has paid a price for his noncompliance with Selective Service; he lost a year's worth of federal student aid for college and is unable to obtain future federal student assistance, federal employment, and federal job training. But he's never regretted his decision to refuse to register for the draft and remains deeply committed to aiding and abetting other who make that choice. Currently, Matt Nicodemus is involved with a number of projects and organizations working for a world without war and other forms of social-environmental destruction, including Resisters.info, the War Resisters League, the Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center, Global Nonviolent Revolution Now, and Sworn to Refuse. He resides in Boulder, Colorado.</p>
6/28/18	<p>--urgent attention -- urgent attention -- urgent attention -- urgent attention-- **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** Friday, June 27, 2018** 6/28 Chicago public hearing/"meeting" of national commission likely scene of controversy, say anti-draft activists. Anti-dra</p>

6/28/18	<p>ISSUE OF AUMF IMPACTING MILITARY, NATIONAL AND PUBLIC SERVICE. (1) July 24, 2017, Scott Roehm of the Constitution Project attended a House Foreign Affairs Committee Meeting convened by Representatives Ed Royce and Eliot Engle on "Authorization for the Use of Military Force and Current Terrorist Trends". In a published letter, Scott Roehm identifies the Constitution Project as committed to "...restoring the division of war powers set up in the Constitution which makes clear that Congress is the branch of government vested with the power and responsibility to declare war". He goes on to describe the ways Congress has failed in this responsibility including ways in which both President Obama and President Trump have "...stretched the 2001 AUMF far beyond the breaking point". A coalition of human rights, civil liberties and faith groups support the Projects' effort to revive the Constitutional intent of the role Congress and the need to rein in the Executive Branch. (2) On September 26, 2017, Senator Tammy Duckworth of Illinois reinforces this effort as she states in an Opinion Editorial of the Wall Street Journal, "...US troops need to know that they have the moral support and legal backing of their country, Congress hasn't given them that". Further she states, "...by ignoring the AUMF for 16 years, all of us, not just lawmakers, fail to do their part of the shared responsibility of being an American citizen". (3) The Women's March on the Pentagon, scheduled for October 20/21 2018, will be comprised of American Citizens who are taking that responsibility. They oppose the draft for men and women. They declare the draft is a harsh burden on the poor, while benefitting the wealthy and powerful. Congressional abdication of responsibility in deciding on war, deprives citizens of vital representation and moral/legal protection.</p> <p>ISSUE OF POVERTY AND VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, EROSION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE. (1) In the UN report on EXTREME POVERTY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, presented at the 38th session of the Human Rights Council June 18 to July 6, 2018, in one of the opening statements cites: "The United States now has one of the lowest rates of intergenerational mobility of any of the rich countries. Zip codes, which are usually unreliable proxies for race and wealth are tragically reliable predictors of a child's future employment and income prospects. High child and youth poverty rates perpetuate the intergenerational transmission of poverty very effectively and ensure that the American Dream is becoming the American Illusion. The equality of opportunity, which is prized in theory is a myth, especially for minorities and women but also for many middle class white workers." (2) Try thinking of your children or grandchildren being forced into Military Conscription, as you ponder these facts documenting the neglect of veterans: A) Twenty veterans die by suicide EACH DAY, a 22% higher rate than matched civilian rate (according to the Veteran's Administration) B) over 40,000 veterans are homeless on any given night according to the US Dept of Housing and Urban Development. Over 15,000 veterans stay in places that are not suitable for human habitation. C) 1,465,807 live under the official US poverty level (Census Bureau), almost 1.5 million veterans require benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program... previously known as Food Stamps... currently being slashed in funding. D) Over 370,000 veterans are unemployed according to the US Dept of Labor. Unemployment is higher for younger veterans between the ages of 22 and 34 than civilians. E) according to the Veteran's Administration, there are 318,000 appeals of veterans benefits pending nationwide with an average wait time of over 2 years. (3) A constantly expanding Defense budget and concomitant slashing of social welfare programs along with a taxing structure that benefits the wealthy will continue to generate severe social/economic inequalities. (4) Before considering any "career", "volunteer", or "draft" pathway in Military, National/Public service we need to acknowledge we have a government that has gone Rogue. We have to acknowledge the issues, as Smedley Butler, a US Marine Corps General and two time winner of the Medal of Honor who wrote War is a Racket in 1935, and as President Eisenhower reminded us in his warning about the Military Industrial Complex in his Farewell address in January, 1961. We need to inform ourselves of the true nature of a country that spends more on war, less on social needs, and consistently violates human rights through militarization of its police, mass incarceration/school to prison pipeline, indifference to refugees displaced by militarism and issues of climate chaos/environmental decline ignored... and sadly... there is even more. We need to ask/demand to understand where is our Democracy.</p>
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6/28/18	<p>I originally prepared this testimony to be presented in person to the Commission at their public meeting on June 28, 2018, in Chicago. Since only a few minutes for comments were available at that meeting, I submit my full testimony below: My name is Dan Rutt. I have traveled from Toledo, Ohio, to be here today. I have come from 250 miles away to testify to you about service. I am volunteering my time to testify about that which is involuntary: conscience. I have come much further than 250 miles to be here today... My testimony is rooted in family history predating the existence of the United States of America. I am 12th generation in this land now known as the United States of America. In the early 1700's, my ancestors settled on land given to them by William Penn, on what would come to be known as Pennsylvania. My Mennonite ancestors fled Germany to escape conscription and war. With that wave of German immigrants and refugees, those that occupied the land had much fear about them ruining life as they new it. Newly-arrived German males age 16 and older were forced to take a loyalty oath to the British crown. The English oath was administered roughshod over the newly arriving boys and men, most of whom spoke only German upon their arrival. Apparently, a nominal and blind oath provided some comfort to those fearful residents already occupying the land. As the Philadelphia harbor bells rang, signaling new arrivals, people gathered to greet them. Many gathered to welcome family or provide strangers with much needed assistance, knowing what it is like to leave one's home and arrive in a strange land with little or nothing. Others gathered to enlist indentured servants. Here is my most important question regarding service. Serving freely or serving under coercion — which is the greater service? I submit that serving freely is greater. In this particular case, the free service of hospitality and welcoming outsiders is greater than enlisting indentured servants. In the shared scripture of The People of The Book — Jews, Christians and Muslims — a similar exhortation is repeated multiple times: "You must love foreigners because you were foreigners in Egypt." This service of what may be considered radical hospitality is a time-honored practice of Jews, Christians and Muslims. The humble practice is at the heart of every great faith worldwide. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Love because you were first loved. My ancestors, yearning to be free, wanted neither to be the cause of war as soldiers nor the tragic effects of war in its wanton destruction. This was at the heart of my ancestors' journeys in life. This is my heritage. More recently, in relation to war and peace, my great-grandfather, during World War II, ran an alternative service camp for conscientious objectors. As for me, I was literally born into service. I was born in 1961 in Haiti, while my parents were serving as medical missionaries, a doctor and nurse, with Mennonite Central Committee. Mennonite Central Committee has long encouraged and empowered years-long terms of service, often overseas. For my Dad, this was also as an alternative service to military service. In 1979, the year I graduated from high school, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan. In response to this, President Jimmy Carter instituted draft registration of young men my age, ostensibly to send a message of military preparedness to Soviet leaders. I was in the first batch of young men required by U.S. law to register for the draft. However, the prospect of draft registration conflicted with a higher law, my conscience and ultimate commitments. I could not and cannot, in good conscience, participate in war-making. As the clarity of my conscience emerged, I could find no way to register for the military draft, whose sole purpose is preparedness for war. My conscience also dictated that if I was to disobey an unconscionable law, then I was to openly take full responsibly for my actions while I worked to change such a law. I began by writing letters to Selective Service and my elected representatives. I may not have had been well-schooled — yet, anyways — on the politics of waging war or peace, but I was intimately familiar with my conscience and the legal duty that my young male peers and I faced. I was a teenager facing obedience to my conscience. This obedience came at the legal threat of up to five years in prison and up to a \$250,000 fine. I quickly learned that my war resistance is not dependent on geopolitical circumstances, political pendulums, or legal threats. I am already opposed to the next war. Unlike in the pragmatism of war, my enemy's enemy is not my friend. For me, war is the enemy. Nonetheless, the nearly 40 years since my initial confrontation with draft registration affords me a certain perspective as I have lived through a full cycle of history. While I was a skinny teenager facing taking on the United States government, the U.S. government was backing the soon-enough-to-be-notorious Osama bin Laden as a so-</p>
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called “freedom fighter,” leading the mujahadeen in Afghanistan against Soviet occupation. Of course, our support of Osama bin Laden, our enemy’s enemy, turned out to be a deadly lesson in the futility of weaponizing violent radicals in the vain hope that it won’t blowback in further violence on virtually all fronts. Today’s “freedom fighter” is tomorrow’s terrorist. Today’s war seeds tomorrow’s terrorist. Gandhi spoke frequently of the seamless connection of means and ends. War IS terrorism. How can we expect it to produce anything else — with it many “means” and “ends”? In the end, I cannot view warmaking as service to this country, or any country for that matter, certainly not to humanity as a whole. I find warmaking incompatible with Jesus’ call to love our enemies and to be peacemakers, the children of God. In speaking with hundreds of Americans over the years about draft registration resistance, I have found that people’s objections to my objections are of two basic types. One type of response is basically that draft registration is such a minimal requirement that it isn’t worth much fuss. If this is the case, then why don’t we just get rid of draft registration, without much fuss? The other type of response is about the utter graveness of our warmaking, and usually something about our national doody. If war is so grave, perhaps the concerns around someone refusing to go postal should receive more thoughtful and consequential consideration. To add insult to injury, in a surreal show of moral farce, war apologists routinely cite “necessary evil” as their moral foundation. This is not the God I serve. Straddling these two poles of minimal and supreme concern, are the tired questions that are asked pacifists, such as: “What would you do if someone was raping your grandmother in the ally?” I learned to answer such questions with: “I’d register for the draft.” If their perplexity persisted, they might suggest that I go back to Russia (where I’ve never been) or indicated their inclination to see me face time in jail; presumably, so I am not around to not protect them. Mean while, back in 1980, soon after winning the presidential election, Ronald Reagan broke his campaign promise to end draft registration. His campaign rhetoric about getting the government off the backs of people rang hollow, like a hollow bullet to my heart. The media wanted to do a story on this broken promise and how it affected the young men subject to the law, particularly those opposed to it. As it turned out, while there were millions of nonregistrants quietly in violation of the law, I was the only local public nonregistrant that they could track down, and I soon found myself highlighted in various media for years to come. To make a long story shorter, in 1983, I was indicted for failure to register — I prefer refusal to register. In 1986, I was tried and convicted. My indiscriminate honesty more than compensated for their lack of investigatory skills. I served 107 days in the federal Community Corrections Center in Detroit, served two years probation, and served 200 hours of community service. I can’t help but note, today, since the theme is “service,” that the solution to my singular failure was to rip me from my community in order to integrate me back into my community. Plus, the court had to bean-count community service that you couldn’t have stopped me from serving anyway. Of course, there were larger forces at work. I, and a select few others, had to be made examples of. I, for One, am proud of the example I served. In the case of The United States of America vs. Daniel A. Rutt, there was a focus on my failure/refusal. In the meantime, I had finished college, got married, finished graduate school, had a son, and got a job. I went on to serve in a public health career of almost two decades. I even got a national award from the feds for my work in health promotion — thanks for noticing, U.S. of A. For the last 16 years, I have run my own business promoting social justice. I do not consider my time imprisoned or countless hours engaging in war resistance as any great burden. In fact, I consider this as service to my country and humanity. I do suspect that most any person who did a tour of active duty in Iraq or Afghanistan has suffered more than I. Unfortunately, war is replete with suffering. Of course, suffering is of no great inherent value. Nonetheless, whatever we willingly suffer for is a good measure of what we truly value. I hope that more Americans, whether male or female, young or old, will volunteer to put more skin in the game and resist war in any way they can. I believe that the cost of freedom is found in not killing, rather than killing. As General Patton so infamously stated, “No dumb bastard ever won a war by going out and dying for his country. He won it by making some other dumb bastard die for his country.” It is impossible for me to separate my service from my conscience. Conscience is that small still voice that emanates from the foundation of our existence, that calls us, at the risk of trademark infringement,

to be all that we can be. My war resistance is deeply rooted in following Jesus, The Prince of Peace. The Jesus I follow was executed as an enemy of the state. He was executed at the behest of the religious elite. Today, the religious elite dutifully save themselves and their clan, more faithfully blessing warmakers than counseling their youth to resist war, more conveniently blessing warmakers than counseling their youth to resist war. The first wave of martyrs in early Christendom were men who refused military service. The broader wave of martyrs were Jesus followers who refused idolatry, the literal and figurative “pinch of incense on the altar” to Caesar. For me, draft registration is that “pinch of incense on the altar” of the state. When it comes to military service, in the great U.S.A., there is no “one nation under God.” When it comes to military service, The United States of America is God. Specifically, The United States of America, does not recognize ANY Constitutional right to refuse military service for ANY reason, including conscience or freedom of religion. As we all know, the U.S. Constitution provides for many rights, rights that cannot be infringed upon by the state. There are many constitutional rights, such as freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom to peaceably assemble, freedom to petition for redress of grievances, freedom from unreasonable search and seizure, and the right to equal protection under the law, among others. These are often referred to as natural rights or God-given rights. Such rights define the character of a state, and place limits on its sovereignty, recognizing a power greater than itself. The United States of America, does not recognize ANY natural or God-given right to refuse military service for ANY reason. If you are surprised by this, so was I. I count this as the singular lesson that I learned in my draft registration resistance. This sad and idolatrous reality was unmasked only by a federal judge citing a Supreme Court case in a legal opinion rejecting my motion for dismissal on the basis of religious freedom. Fortunately, I have found that God’s grace extends further than legislative grace or constitutional provision of this republic. I strongly suspect that tens of millions of Americans of faith recognize that holy obedience sometimes requires civil disobedience. My male ancestors age 16 plus who arrived to this land so many years ago were forced to swear a loyalty oath to the government, even though most didn’t even speak the language in which the oath was administered. This didn’t even seem to matter to government officials. Why is this? I suspect that the nominal and incomprehensible oath was a “pinch of incense on the altar,” a ritual form of national worship needed by a resident populace afraid of strangers. The minimal content of the oath served as a safe and surefire way to maximize compliance and minimize resistance. Who would get back on the boat and return across the sea because they had to mouth or sign an incomprehensible swearing. Who would not submit their name and basic information to the Selective Service System? Well, most young men do not register when they first become legally required. Most young men, hoping to go somewhere, register when they need to secure a driver’s license, or when they reach the shore of an education, needing a student loan. I suspect that the ritual obedience of a “pinch of incense on the altar” may be more important than an actually functioning, fair and equitable system of potential conscription. Conspicuously absent from the Selective Service annual report is the noncompliance rate with the requirement for registrants to update their address (within 10 days) every time they move. Every observant person knows that 18-25 year-old men move a lot. How many address updates do they get? How many address updates don’t they get? Surely, this can be estimated, and certainly it matters if one actually cares about being able to effectively and fairly enlist young men in a potential draft. The noncompliance rate for initial registration is 8% for all 18-25 year-old men. I strongly suspect that the noncompliance with current address is much higher than noncompliance with initial registration; probably, in combination, high enough to blow a hole in any contention that draft registration is effective and fair. By the way, those young men not complying with address updates are subject to the same legal penalties of up to five years in prison and up to a \$250,000 fine. In FY 2017, 184,051 names and addresses of suspected violators to initial registration were provided to the Department of Justice. Does it strike anyone else as odd that the names and addresses of suspected violators are forwarded? If the Selective Service System has the names and addresses of potential enlistees, what else do they need? I contend that what Selective Service is largely after is your assent to civil obedience, participation in a national religion of warmaking, your “pinch of incense on the altar,” if you will. This seems to be a better characterization

of Selective Service's function than, in the case of a military draft, to "rapidly provide personnel in a fair and equitable manner." Oddly, if you find yourself a male age 26 or older, beyond the age requirement to register, and you failed to register, you could still run into trouble by being denied eligibility for federal student financial aid, federal job training, federal employment, or U.S. citizenship; yet, you may be in the clear if you can "show by a preponderance of evidence" that your failure to register was not knowing and willful. Just don't be too conscientious; that is, until you have to prove that you were not conscientious. Apparently, the true crime is conscientiousness in not registering, more so than simply not registering. The selective prosecution of a few conscientious and public resisters while millions are noncompliant speaks volumes to this. Certainly, a system where obliviousness is excusable and objecting conscientiously is a crime is a system that distorts our nation's highest values. I don't object to Selective Service being shot full of holes regarding compliance. I do object to Selective Service dishonoring or punishing conscientiousness. As there is no way for a registrant to officially indicate any intent at conscientious objection, I would be very curious to see what would happen if conscientious objector status were a checkbox in the registration process. We might learn a lot about the state of conscientious objection in America. Of course, if Selective Service noncompliance is largely about non-conscientiousness, then I have to ask: What would such a level of non-conscientiousness say about what we might be fighting for and who might be fighting for it? The draft registration system cannot account for true conscientiousness. The draft registration system cannot muster enough compliance, conscientious or not, to claim fairness and equitability. The honorable course of action, in both cases, is to end draft registration. In truth, the actual practice of draft registration ignores conscientious objection. While there is no apparent constitutional right to refuse military conscription, there are some legislative provisions for what are called conscientious objectors. Unfortunately, there is no mechanism to indicate conscientious objection during the current draft registration process. This is objectionable to many conscientiously opposed to war. Somewhat oddly, the only legal way to make such a claim is to submit to a system, the Selective Service System, whose sole purpose is preparing for war, which you must reject completely. Plus, conscientious objector status is only possible as a military service classification, if and when a draft may occur. The longer a registrant is unrecognized as conscientiously opposed to war, the further the objection. Further, conscientious objector status can only be recognized for those who are opposed to all wars. If you in good conscience object to whatever current war in which you are subject to serve, this is oddly irrelevant. You could, in fact, turn out to conscientiously object to every actual war that comes down the pike in your lifetime and this is deemed irrelevant if you are not opposed to every theoretical war (or past war). This renders conscientious objection to a meaningless idea for what is perhaps the vast bulk of being conscientiously opposed to war. Finally, there is no real mechanism to truly count or officially value the service of conscientious objectors, meaning that men will be drafted until the military need is met, whether ten or ten million men have conscientious objection. The service of a conscientious objector is superfluous to the determining aim of the Selective Service System. This itself is offensive to many persons of conscience opposed to war-making. Let's end the criminalization of conscience. In truth, the actual practice of warmaking habitually runs roughshod over international law and human rights. The promise of some possible future alternative service as a noncombatant is little comfort to my conscience, and of many others. In a warring world, the distinction between combatants and noncombatants offers fantastical sanitization rather than actual sanity. The fact is that across time and across a myriad of modern armed conflicts, over ten so-called "noncombatants" are killed for every "combatant." The first casualty of war is the truth; most of the rest are noncombatants. My duty is to oppose war, not escape military service. This is my service to humanity. This service is regardless of combatant status. Plus, the best way to serve warriors happens to be ending war. In the age of terrorism, some will claim that we live in new era of war, not subject to the old rules of war. We do live in a different time than in the 1980's, the decade when draft registration was initiated. I can testify to a profound shift toward anti-war sentiment since then. During the first Gulf war, in the early 1990's, I never felt so isolated as an American, confronting palpable resistance even from liberals. When the U.S. invaded Afghanistan, our local peace network, the Northwest Ohio

Peace Coalition, initiated weekly Sunday demonstrations at busy intersections around town. These demonstrations for peace and against war occurred weekly for 15 years (and continue twice each month). In the early years, most of the feedback we had from passing motorists was angry yelling, middle fingers, and expletives flying. Over the years, this angry response has become rare, perhaps a couple a week, and the overwhelming positive responses are represented by hundreds of “honks for peace,” peace signs and thumbs up. Americans in the heartland of Ohio are tired of war and welcome peace. Draft registration is a relic of ages past. Why have draft registration when even the military cites no scenarios where they would want a draft? One issue at the heart of draft registration and military conscription is what is the proper role of women in warmaking and peacemaking. I am delighted to see that women serve as 5 of the 11 commissioners. Surely, it is women who should determine what is the proper role of women, in this case, concerning warmaking and peacemaking. In my lifelong work across a wide range of social justice movements, I have found women to be the most reliable and most inspiring leaders and laborers for social justice. I strongly suspect that women will take up the mantle of even greater war resistance if they become subject to military conscription. I take inspiration to serve as a war resister from Julia Ward Howe. She, most famously known as the composer of the Battle Hymn of The Republic, was the founder of Mother’s Day, originally a day of war resistance. She issued this Mother’s Day Proclamation in 1870: Arise, then, women of this day! Arise all women who have hearts, whether your baptism be of water or of tears! Say firmly: “We will not have questions decided by irrelevant agencies. Our husbands shall not come to us reeking of carnage for caresses and applause. Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy, and patience. We women of one country will be too tender to those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs.” From the bosom of a devastated Earth a voice goes up with our own. It says “Disarm! Disarm!” The sword of murder is not the balance of justice. Blood does not wipe out dishonor, nor violence indicate possession. As men have forsaken the plow and the anvil at the summons of war, let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of counsel. Let them meet first as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead. Let them solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace, each bearing after his time the sacred impress not of Caesar, but of God. In the name of womanhood and humanity, I earnestly ask that a general congress of women without limit of nationality be appointed and held at some place deemed most convenient and at the earliest period consistent with its objects, to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace. I would much prefer entrusting my conscience and fate to such “a general congress of women without limit of nationality,” rather than the currently constituted National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service. Perhaps somewhat ironic, given my heritage, Germany now has a constitutional right to conscientious objection while the United States does not. When Germany ended conscription in 2011, the majority of those serving were conscientious objectors, and the debate had shifted from conscience to whether they should give up a huge pool of cheap labor. I believe that forced national service is incongruent with our nation’s highest ideals. I believe that volunteerism is at the core of authentic service. I suspect that lowering our ideals by forcing service is a poor way to nurture true service. Let us lead by example. This is why I am here today. If you want to gauge both the heart and the cutting edge of service in this country and for this country, look to those who volunteer, willingly, without pay, to live out their deepest values. This is the clearest view of our highest ideals incarnate, that service, that work, which cannot be bought and sold. I appreciate the opportunity to testify before the Commission. From your bios, I can see that you are exemplary leaders in service. Unfortunately, I think that you may have an impossible job. I appreciate that Selective Service is technically considered under civilian control. Still, I can’t help but notice that both Selective Service and this Commission are heavily represented by persons from the military or traditional national security apparatus. This does not fairly represent America in the civilian service necessary to make for peace in the world. Also, about 4 in 10 Americans are persons of color, including many of those in the military. Why is this Commission even whiter than the overly white Congress who appointed it? This is

	<p>not a service to America, and raises the question of whether white supremacy is part and parcel to your work. In tandem, the Commission's overwhelmingly militarized representation and unduly whiteness, inspires little confidence that your recommendations can represent America. Perhaps it would be more honest to call this Commission an Omission. I suspect that this failure is rooted in the failure and cowardice of Congress to deal with draft registration in a changing world, that is, a world that recognizes women as equals. Congress punted on the politically unpopular choices of just ending draft registration or expanding it to women. Instead, Congress kicked the can down the road for a couple of years by creating a Commission to address this question for them. Unfortunately, This Congress-created Commission is so couched in generic service rhetoric that it is hamstrung in dealing straightforwardly with the singular issue that triggered its creation: draft registration. Until the Commission owns up to addressing the issue of draft registration as its core reason for existing, any hopes of sparking a national conversation on service will be sparks falling on damp firewood. Further complicating the credibility of the Commission is the tightly controlled and choreographed public meetings in conjunction with severely limited open public testimony. A responsive democratic process would have begun with generous opportunities for open public testimony, and then using this input to shape additional "invited" testimony. This may already be too late to remedy. The chasm between the nature of "invited" testimony and uninvited testimony betrays a characterization of the Commission's work to date as democratic or representative. In my years of public service, both as a community planner and as a citizen participant in many public forums, I think that it is fairer to characterize the Commission's public meetings to date more as "dog and pony shows" than as an open and responsive democratic process. For this Commission's work to claim legitimacy, there is a lot of changes that need to be made. Lastly, having to make FOIA requests to find out about the basic public functioning of the Commission does not bode well for a culture of transparent, accountable public service by the Commission. I hope that you have found worthwhile input in my testimony to move toward a peace-loving democracy in which every one of us finds ample opportunities, free of compulsion, for self-sacrificial service for the good of all.</p>
6/28/18	I thank that we should end the selective service system we do not need it know one won'ts a draft anyway it is just setting there taking money away from other things.
6/28/18	We don't not need the selective service system any more know one won'ts a draft and selective service is just taking up money that we can put to something else we need to end the selective service system in end the draft thanks for your time.

6/29/18	The draft should be ended know one won'ts it you can make things better by just doing away with the draft.
7/4/18	<p>Dear Commissioners, I presume I am well-known to you, from my first submission on February 23, from my book received by each of you, Free Radicals: War Resisters in Prison, and from my several phone calls to the Commission's offices. You have been demonstrating exemplary consideration of public views, really talking to Americans. You're paying attention to the people which most politicians fail at miserably. As the Commission's hearing progress, I have been doing some serious thinking about the nature of compulsion. If service is genuinely worth doing, there is no need to force anyone. This makes registration for any sort of public service unnecessary. We all need to think about service in broader terms. What does service to country mean? It certainly does not mean being a mindless drone in service of the government of the day. Service to one's fellows, one's neighbors, one's community, is something quite different. Most of us do these little human services every day in many ways without ever thinking about it. This service comes from being a good person. Perhaps we have not done enough to promote volunteerism. Selfless service for those in need. This service can occur at home or abroad simply to make the world safer, more secure, a better place for everyone. We need to think long and hard about whether we're teaching our children the true value and meaning of serving others, how that service creates positive benefits in ripples throughout society, how that service creates a country at peace with itself and a peaceful world. Right about now, if you've read this far, you're probably thinking I might be a dangerous idealist, or worse! However, my long life has taught me that we're only as good as we aspire to be, so aim high. I think the human benefits of service are lost when a top-down, hierarchical system is imposed. 'Selective' Service is one such system. There's never been much 'selective' about selective service. Those who are convinced of the rightness of war sign up, the uneducated poor with few opportunities are drafted, and the rest of us refuse! If you are seriously considering continuing compulsory registration, whether for military or civilian service, I can't accept that, nor should any American. The next inevitable step is punishment for failure or refusal to register or to serve. When a government compels service through criminal penalties, such service is still called slavery. I've written a list, appended below, on alternative service for you to think about. Thank you for your consideration, and your work.</p> <p>peace&freedom, CJ Hinke CO: Eight questions on alternative service CJ Hinke 1) Is alternative service mandatory for a CO? (Many COs object to the compulsory nature of alternative service.) 2) Is a CO's sincerity determined by a country's military? (Obviously, military authority has no qualifications to judge COs.) 3) Are all beliefs against war accepted, such as political and social convictions, rather than just religion? (If even the most extreme antiwar views are not fully and equally accepted, the alternative service system doesn't work for everyone.) 4) Must a potential draftee decide his or her conscience from the outset of the conscription process? And what opportunities are offered for changing one's mind and becoming a CO later on? 5) Are active duty and reserve soldiers given the opportunity to declare CO? 6) Does any aspect of alternative service enable a functioning military or support it in any way? 7) Is the length of alternative service equal to, i.e., not longer than, military service? 8) The purpose of conscientious objection is to remove one's body from the war machine. This is called substitute service. It removes one soldier from the military ranks and drafts another in their place. However, if one's country employs exactly the same number of soldiers, not minus one—you—alternative service is an ineffective means for stopping war. These considerations are vitally important for COs considering alternative service rather than prison.</p>
7/6/18	test.
7/9/18	<p>My family has a long history of military service in every generation but that has now ended due to a lack of backbone in current military leadership. In order to appear tough on sexual assault, convening authorities (colonels and generals) are sending innocent people to court-martial; all the while JAG attorney leadership is rolling over their own ethical responsibilities and encouraging it. Until allegations of sexual assault are put in the hands of civilian professionals, we do our best to dissuade people from military service. Getting shot at from the enemy is one thing, but having it come from your own leadership-that's not worth it. Shannon James</p>

7/9/18	American youth currently understands that joining the military means you're murdering and dying for profit. No one is buying it anymore. Move on.
7/9/18	All you need to do is offer scholarships to the fine military schools, like NMMI, and you will create many more potentials!!!
7/9/18	Bring back the draft. We need diversity in the ranks. Ret. MSgt
7/9/18	I don't think the military is doing itself a favor by disallowing 1st generation immigrants a pathway to citizenship through military service. Many of these young people are bright, passionate and hard-working.
7/9/18	By having Congress signing up theirs sons and daughters first thereby showing a good example!
7/10/18	My name is Paul Cook, COL, USA (RET). I read Mr. Kilgannon's piece on Fox News. How can I help? If it helps inform your answer, my Army experience included commanding a recruiting company in the Los Angeles Recruiting Battalion, command of the New York City Recruiting Battalion and serving as Chief of Staff of the First Recruiting Brigade (essentially controlling all recruiting activities in the northeast). Outside of recruiting my career included service in Germany, Korea and Southwest Asia. Please let me know if I can be of assistance, and thanks for what you are doing. V/R Paul J. Cook COL, USA (RET)
7/10/18	My son currently serves and is in good physical shape, passes all AFPT tests. He is of short stature and is at risk of being chaptered out because of weight, as are others in his unit. Everyone is built differently and I feel if there was some leeway, we would have and keep more men in uniform. He has excelled in everything he does in the military, and wanted to make a career of it, but unfortunately and sadly probably won't. I think height and weight ratios should be re-evaluated for our military.
7/10/18	<p>Let me tell you, I have a daughter that dreamed of serving and becoming an officer. But the local MEPS station said NO because she had asthma as a kid. Even though she passed all asthma tests and has not had an attack in over 2 years. Her asthma only came on due to seasonal allergies. We had a doctor sign off as she passed all the tests. We also had a letter from the Admiral of the Navy saying past asthma issues could be waived. She was trying for the AirForce first. But the local doctors at MEPS still would not let her in? She is studying to be a mechanical engineer at Eastern WA University.</p> <p>What is your answer to someone that works all of their young life to serve in the AirForce and is denied even though she passed the physical tests? As her Dad and a United States Marine I am furious that they did not even give her a chance. They (MEPS doctors) destroyed my daughter's AirForce officer dreams and any chance at being a Naval Officer also.</p> <p>You want more young people but there is a problem at MEPS! I talked to the local recruiter on a One to one basis. More good recruits are turned away by our local MEPS than for any other reason.</p> <p>So I have a daughter that was so distraught because it was her dream for years to be an officer. I feel she was treated unjustly and the doctor at MEPS ignored the Admiral of the Navy's direct order.</p>
7/10/18	Too many racists and sexists in the military

7/10/18	I can answer your question very simply and succinctly. In fact, I've been considering writing to the president about it. But I'm most interested in guiding others toward a valued, workable solution. I recommend that you collect some data as you are first. Then have a facilitated session with various groups of individuals in an attempt to refine an amenable position. That recommendation should be provided to the president for policy consideration involving Congress. I would be willing to assist. I can be reached at [REDACTED] Richard Daniel; CEO, Cool Landing Facilitating.
7/10/18	Young people are informed. They know the 19 9/11 hijackers were from Saudi Arabia, yet thousands were maimed, injured, or killed in?Afghanistan? The military is at the mercy of neocon war-hawks like Paul Wolfowitz and Douglas Feith. Our no longer defends the American people or 'freedom' or 'justice.' It has been commandeered by globalist warmongers who want to 'reshape' the middle-east.
7/10/18	First of all...You opened up the military to a bunch of SNOWFLAKES and TRANSGENDERS! Who wants to be in a Foxhole in battle with someone that doesn't know if they are a man or a woman with live ammo? Get the picture?
7/10/18	<p>Military service is an honor and I think we need to, as a country, remind young people that civic responsibility is part of that honor. It must start with our kids. We need to remind them of how wonderful the United States is through history, civics, and societal endeavors that honor our country- not through shame and denigration. We SHOULD be proud to be American and it's up to us to instill that in our youth.</p> <p>Another way to improve our numbers militarily is to look at some of the things that are barriers. Physical fitness is an easier fix...we need to make sure our kids are active and able, and I am sure we could implement programs in school and other venues to promote physical fitness more. Instead of messing with school lunch programs in a top-down way, maybe we could provide more incentive for kids to be active.</p> <p>Another barrier that I've seen as both a parent and a high school teacher is the lack of encouragement seen from educators in response to military service. I am not too sure what we can do about that, but it seems that many educators don't really see the military as a smart option for kids, and I completely disagree with this. The military instills values and knowledge, while providing opportunity for both the individual and our country. It is a wonderful choice for students and I wish the educational system would promote it more.</p> <p>Finally, another barrier I see are some of the eligibility requirements today. Of course we want top-shelf kids joining, but I wonder sometimes if we loosened the restrictions a bit we might get some really great candidates. My son always wanted to join the military (like his grandparents, uncles, and me), but he got into some legal trouble in high school that resulted in him having a record that prevents him from joining. In years past a judge had the ability to help...but not today. My son got straightened out and would love to serve his country, but waivers for felonies are not flying in today's military.</p>

7/10/18	<p>In order to attract and retain more recruits of better quality and sense of duty, Congress must lift arbitrary age restrictions for service, especially for prior service members who have honorably served. Perhaps changes are needed in the retirement system as it stands. Instead of being "aged" out for being unable to complete twenty years of service, allow more waivers for those willing to sign a statement that he/she may not get a full retirement. Better yet, reform the system so that a service member gets retirement benefits relative to the number of years served. That is, after a minimum period of qualifying service(say 4 years), any years thereafter would go toward military accumulating benefits. Thus, someone who serves 10 years would receive more credit benefit-wise than someone with five years of service. This restructures the benefit matrix and gets rid of arbitrary minimums or maximums in determining retirement for a service member. In essence, by removing artificial restrictions the armed services can greatly increase the available pool of those willing to serve.</p> <p>Closely related to this, is simply increasing the number of age waivers for candidates who can meet the physical and other requirements for military service. As a prior service member myself, I have tried numerous times to rejoin the Navy. I have been rejected simply because of these aforementioned age restrictions even though I can and definitely exceed the physical and educational requirements. The response to my previous inquiries has been there is no need to waiver as there are plenty of applicants. If there is indeed glut of applicants, then is the premise of this article false? Is there a true shortfall</p> <p>in qualified applicants? I truly hope these barriers to service for patriotic Americans can be eliminated.</p> <p>I firmly believe that military service has inherent value. It is those willing to serve (and sometimes die for) this great nation that preserve the United States and our freedoms for future generations. I hope there is a way for some sort of initiative that could be undertaken to promote more understanding and respect for just how precarious America freedoms are in this dangerous world. Many Americans do not realize just how much of an anomaly of freedom the US is in this present age. Currently, I believe the attention and prominence President Trump has given the United States armed forces has helped to focus on that institution which protects our freedoms. Asking Americans to sacrifice (perhaps die) for America is not rooted in monetary or other benefits as much as it is in a commitment to and understanding of the great political, moral, religious history of this nation. Citizens are motivated to serve when they realize just how amazingly unique the position America holds in history truly is. Americans can and will sacrifice to uphold an ideal. It is to these great intangibles one must appeal to attract the very best.</p>
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7/10/18	Come again...Eleven commissioners plus staff...twenty of you to "...listen to the public and recommend to the president..."? Aren't you all ashamed...has it even occurred to any of you you are just a bunch of freeloaders off taxpayers' dollars?
7/10/18	I think the US should bring the draft back...except draft all youth for two years into the Peace Corps...not the Killer Corps, or military!

7/10/18	<p>Granted there are many forms of service. In no way do I want to diminish the 'public service' of politicians and government workers, but certainly uniformed service is a bit more unique in what is asked. I would offer that leadership by example may help motivate and encourage others to serve. So one could ask Presidents Trump, Obama, Bush, and Clinton why their children have approximately zero interest in serving in uniform as a starting point for a national conversation.</p> <p>Historically, there seemed and in some parts of the nation still may be a history of family service. About 15 years ago, I noted it trending less and less. Initially I was surprised to see my fellow service members discourage their children from following their footsteps. Years later an exhausted military with years and years away from family, it is much more understandable. I have two children. I didn't discourage them from serving. They grew up mostly without their father. Even when I was physically present, I was crushed with military requirements compressed into the time I was in the United States. As a leader, I would bang my head against idiotic bureaucracy far too often. In addition, our military became a political tool / petri dish for social experimentation. I am certain that there are some who left service and / or won't join service because of how the services were used to that end. To this day, there remains gaping holes in guidance on what exactly to do with many of the issues driven into the military culture over the past 8 years. When a junior leader asks me for advice, I have to say - call a lawyer (JAG). When I speak with the JAG, they don't know what to do either.</p> <p>Now I will briefly hit your questions.</p> <p>1&2 Draft - Yes - because if we lost a few Brigades or aircraft carriers we would need to rapidly increase our ability to defend ourselves. I would also offer that excluding women from the draft is no longer tenable and should be directed. Progressives wanted all doors open to women. Congratulations, they are wide open and now we can draft our daughters and mothers just as we have our sons and fathers.</p> <p>3. Public Service - By good examples...just can't really seem to find many of those anymore. Find plenty of bad ones.</p>
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4. Barriers to serve include never ending bureaucracy, lack of flexibility and initiative. Lawyers have codified so much of our lives that independent thought and judgment is not possible or desired.

5. Yes it does. I don't think there is a shortage of police applicants, despite hazards and vitriol coming from the progressive side of our political spectrum. That said, they are also generally well-compensated across the years of service.

6. No compelling someone is not good.

I fear that you certainly have your work cut out for you, because neither of my children are interested in serving in uniform and they are both scholar athlete leaders who would be excellent.

7/10/18	<p>As a young American, I have always strived to serve my country. I have done when I can to serve my local community and state since my graduation from high school seven years ago. I wanted to pursue a part-time career in the military reserves. Unfortunately, even though I attended a full-time JROTC high school, not enough information was provided about all the variable branches of the armed services for me to make an informed decision before my admittance to college. I decided to complete my four year degree and revisit military service at a later date. All the while serving as a volunteer firefighter in upstate New York. My civil service contribution has continue to this day. I have learned a lot about myself and others while attending state and federal courses that have made me more desirable in the civilian workplace. At this time I am currently attempting to join the United States Air National Guard. My process has not been an easy one, from the utter irrevelance of the asvab test as it relates to matters of praticality to the BMI and medical waiver process. It seems that even those with a clean record and impeccable resume are no match for such a drawn out bureaucratic process. I eagerly want to serve my country but i feel as though I am not wanted when i as so many others before me, must jump through a series of hoops to then be delayed or denied by a pannel of personel. People of our current generation are driven by a strong desire to succeed and overcome. However, if one goal cannot be met in a timely manner or if said recruiters cannot make reasonable accommodations to train and guide this generation to meet certain requirements said individuals will and should look elsewhere for their success in life. The issues that face our nations military in the recruiting dept. is no different from that of many emergency service agencies. People want and need the jobs they offer. They simply cant get hired because of a slow, outdated, and overly politically correct system that uses a series of outdated testing methods and physical assestments to detrimine adaqueete charecter and ability.</p> <p>I wish you luck on your study.</p>
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7/10/18	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? NO, an all volunteer military force can be readily sustained with appropriate market incentives. 2. Are modifications to the selective service system needed? YES, it should be eliminated for military service. 3. How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? This is a market question with regard to the military. Incentives already exist for those who meet standards. However, one group of highly motivated and qualified individuals is ignored -- those that are deemed as fully qualified by the service academies but nonetheless are not accepted (usually based on limited openings and demographics/quotas). These individuals are high achievers in academics, athletics and leadership, and are already committed to service. But the academies turn them away, and lose them to other successful careers in industry. While other options exist (ROTC) it is a half measure. Post-college (OCS) is also limiting, since at that point most are either slaves to student debt or enticed to high salaries and the entrepreneurial world. A middle model is the Navy's small NUPOC program. That should be studied and explored further. 4. What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service? None for those who wish to serve, as long as they meet standards. 5. Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it? YES, but only to those individuals who value it. Forcing service is a foundation for resentment. 6. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? It should be, but is not. Not all Americans love their country. Not all realize the value during their youth. 7. How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? First, service should not be limited to the young. Cutting off service opportunities at age 35 (or younger) eliminates a whole pool of mature, experienced and socialized individuals. So much of the military is "back office" that it makes little sense to apply infantry standards to cubicle MOSs. Trying to fill those spots with young, fat, unmotivated,
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entitled and Twitter-span generations is a losing battle. If media reports are correct that over 70% of young adults are unfit to serve, it's way past time to think outside the box. Youth culture is not a turn-around opportunity.

7/10/18	<p>#4 - Barriers. The National Guard and Reserve Component are "community-based" organizations. As part of Base Realignment and Closure - BRAC, the military shuttered many distributed centers and armories to 'save money'. The second order effect is / was to make those that willing have to drive a lot farther adding to their long days and nights. A few weeks ago a reservist died on his way to drill. It was around 4 AM and he had another two hours to go to get there. Not only did we make it more difficult for Soldiers to drill, we also lost our ability to live with and in the communities where we find new Soldiers to serve tomorrow. We lost the ability to engage our fellow citizens at lunch, march in their parades, support them when they need it.</p> <p>Recommendation: Stop and reverse the trend to consolidate a bunch of reserve and national guard units into 'supercenter' reserve centers. These reserve centers / armories should be part of the community, not set so far away in industrial lots that most folks have no idea it is even there.</p>
7/10/18	<p>4. Barriers - Risk Aversion policies and lawyers. Thick regulatory and policy guidance makes it practically impossible to have our Soldiers participate in community activities - putting a face to our service. When asked to participate in the local Veteran's Day parade, our lawyers had to get involved and made it so difficult that we decided it wasn't worth it. Another example is family readiness groups used to raise funds and support reservists during drill weekend with homemade food and drinks. That is until the lawyers advised us that we weren't allowed to do that and had to go to 'packaged' food items only. FRG stopped coming to drill weekends.</p>

7/10/18	<p>Two Tour Vietnam Veteran Senior Warrant Officer “ Reserve Component “ “Sir, we’ve been doing this for a long time. We’re excellent at what we do. We do this for each other and our country. If we don’t enjoy doing this anymore, we stop coming. -----</p> <p>In September 2000, as a transitioning officer from active duty to the reserves, I had an open mind. I had trained along-side some of our reserve component Soldiers earlier that summer. I knew it was different, but not exactly sure what that meant. One of the most important measurements in the either component is assigned personnel strength. In the reserve unit I joined, I was fortunate, as it was consistently over 100% assigned personnel and morale was high.</p> <p>I attended my first two week annual training in the summer of 2001. We moved to and occupied an assembly area, led by our noncommissioned officers (NCOs). Our ARTEP graders were impressed with our junior NCOs who ran the quartering and advanced parties. Upon main-body arrival, including our helicopters, we completed the task and moved to establishing a battle rhythm.</p> <p>A Chief Warrant Officer 4 approached me and said “Sir, can I talk to you for a minute?”</p> <p>While busy, I had grown to trust and like him so immediately stopped what I was doing and went outside.</p> <p>He said, “Sir, I don’t want you to take this the wrong way. The guys and I kind of like you. We think you’re a good leader and will do well here. But this isn’t the Army.</p> <p>I had to think for a second. He was wearing a flight suit, I was in the Battle Dress Uniform of the field environment. Luckily, sewn on above my left breast pocket, were the required letters “U.S. Army”. I stretched it out and looked down at it and said:</p> <p>Me: “I’m sorry, I don’t think I can read this upside down, could you tell me what it says.”</p> <p>With all of his patience and wisdom he tried a new and more convincing approach.</p>
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CW4: "Sir, we've been doing this for a long time. We're excellent at what we do. We do this for each other and our country. If we don't enjoy doing this anymore, we stop coming."

Not understanding or ready for this profound message, but realizing I was dealing with an absolute professional giving me a stern warning, I realized I needed time to think and said how much I appreciated the time he took to tell me that. I went back to work, ensuring that our perimeter was secure, communications were up, and equipment ready for the next day's work.

Years later after 16 years of conflict, I believe many of our most senior leaders never had such great mentorship or we wouldn't continue to shed so many mid-grade leaders in our Officer Corps, NCO Corps and regrettably Officer Corps.

It is not fun anymore. Fun is absent in the vocabulary of military service.

7/11/18	<p>To the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service. I've only recently become aware of your Commission, and offer my comments below for your thoughtful consideration. On your "Share Your Thoughts" page http://inspire2serve.gov/content/share-your-thoughts you ask 7 questions. I find question #3 the most significant: How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation? In order to inspire and engage people in public service, they must understand what the "public" is they are serving. Over the last 60+ years, Civics education has practically disappeared from school curricula across the country. During this time, the teaching of American history also has been diluted, even, some might argue, altered to fit a new political narrative that is hostile to the founding of the Republic. Students have been taught to be suspicious of their historical legacy, even to despise it. Given the deliberate "shaming" of America in textbooks and lesson plans, how are students to be inspired to serve their country? [Howard Zinn's A People's History of the United States is in public and private schools, and serves as a prime example of the early "Progressive" effort to rip apart the diverse yet cohesive tapestry that is the United States of America.] And so I suggest that your Commission collaborate with the Department of Education to honestly assess the state of Civics and American History curricula in the United States. I believe you will find evidence of a concerted effort to tear at the fabric of our Republic's history with the intent of turning generations against their country. And perhaps then you will be able to explain why it is increasingly challenging to inspire younger citizens to serve their Republic out of patriotic pride and a sense of duty. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration, Catharine Trauernicht McLean, VA</p>
7/11/18	<p>Kids today love to play war games, but they are unwilling to work, unwilling to work in a family unit, unwilling to work in school, unwilling to work in life, we as americans created a privileged generation, and its only going to get worse... good luck the youth are not going to put in the effort</p>
7/11/18	<p>7. I believe that mentoring is a domain in which the impetus to serve is fomented. Now, this cannot be a "program." This mentoring should be "organic" (to use a buzzword). In my experience (currently serving as an enlisted member of the Air Force), mentoring relationships are what caused me to catch the spark, so-to-speak, for the desire to serve. I had a family heritage of military service, but I also knew many people in my local church community who served. Combined, that context of relationships with servicemen and women is what instilled in me this knowledge that service was an inherent good. This sense of service must be caught not taught, to use proverbial wisdom. The sense of service is caught in the contexts of mentoring relationships. So, if the nation can do anything to increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve, we need to create conditions in which mentoring relationships can flourish. We need to find ways where military members might serve as a "link" to their respective communities. But this must happen naturally. It cannot be a mere program where one might "sign up" for a mentor, etc. That will not work. We cannot create the relationships, but we can create the conditions that allow for such relationships to form. This, I think, would be one step toward fostering a culture that values the impetus to serve.</p> <p>Aaron</p>

Wichita, Kansas

7/11/18

Proud to Have Served as a 'Conscripted Volunteer'

I'm hopeful that your commission will endorse a return of the military draft. But I'm urging you to give draftees a greater choice of which branch they can serve, and allowing them to avoid combat arms, unless they volunteer for it.

I'm proud today to say that I served in the Army in the late 60's, but only because I was given a choice to avoid combat. By the time I was drafted in 1968, I had already graduated college and had been accepted into Army Intelligence -- ([REDACTED]) 8th Army, South Korea; and for the Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, MDW). I found myself in a "safe haven" from the meat grinder that Viet Nam had become, an option most draftees and ROTC lieutenants were never offered.

As a "conscripted volunteer," I was well treated by the Army, and the two years of training that I received helped me be effective in Korea and with a successful career in Washington DC. My hunch is this what most young Americans would be grateful to have as an option -- if faced with an obligation to serve.

Thank you.

7/12/18

Dear National Commission Team,

In July of 73, we shifted to an all volunteer military, but never shifted to all volunteer infrastructure to support, grow and ensure a healthy participation in military service. I'm currently working with a group of talented people creating the right vision, mission and solution that will transform the way we think about military service.

We are reimagining this infrastructure through a series of dynamic ecosystems connecting strategically through public/private sector partnerships. Their is significant organizational design work to bring alignment, that brings flow, that brings impact.

We would welcome an opportunity to join you in designing a future because when you transform a veteran, you transform a nation.

Thank you!

Eddie Dunn

[REDACTED]

7/12/18	<p>If we continue to have mandatory Selective Service registration, it must apply to both genders equally, given how women are now allowed to serve in front-line military combat positions.</p> <p>However, perhaps the most logical option is to abolish the mandatory registration all-together.</p> <p>This is a common sense solution.</p> <p>The cost of Selective Service registration exceeds the \$25 million Selective Service budget.</p> <p>Draft registration is unnecessary. After 9-11, the military had more than enough volunteers. Activating the draft was never seriously considered post 9-11.</p> <p>Alternatives to this burdensome system currently exist. In the unlikely event of a "sudden need" for more military personnel, it is reasonable to assume that, with today's technology, a pool of names could be generated quickly and easily for a potential draft (and more cost-efficient than the current ongoing registration).</p>
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Though failure to register is a felony, the government has not prosecuted anyone for this since 1986. The Selective Service System, as it exists today, is outdated and unnecessary.

7/13/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. No, I do not feel that a military draft or draft contingency is still a necessary component of U.S. security.2. Yes, modifications to the selective service are needed.3. One way to increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals is to change or increase the benefits to appeal more to individuals that have the skills that best match needs of the nation.4. Motivation is probably the biggest barrier to participation in military, national, or public service.5. No, service does not have inherent value.6. No, a mandatory service requirement for all Americans is not necessary, valuable or feasible. There are people who are not suited for service and money could be spent elsewhere.7. To increase the propensity for Americans to serve, it would be best to inform them of the benefits theyâ€™ll receive for their service.
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7/13/18	<p>#ExposeRandy</p> <p>https://facebook.com/Arsurrett83 RAPIST!</p> <p>Randy violently raped a teenage girl on their 1983 Cedartown high school senior trip to a beach. He's never been prosecuted, his victim lives in shame. Keep your daughters away from this man</p>
7/13/18	<p>I believe that more Federal financial backing of JROTC programs in high schools will help young people understand the role of the military better and help more students understand their civic duties, such as community service and voting.</p>
7/13/18	<p>Keep the draft but add females. Remove women from combat roles. Moving around makes service difficult. No mandatory service outside of war.</p>
7/15/18	<p>Is the draft needed? Absolutely. While current force requirements and structure suggest that conscripts are not likely to be needed in any future national emergency, we don't know what form future national emergencies could take. For most of our country's history, the concept and possibility of involuntary conscription was part of life for all young men. We are now one and a half generations away from our society losing any tangible knowledge of even the existence of the draft. The idea of involuntary conscription is so alien to the next generation that it would already be an extremely difficult process to enact. Scrapping the machinery to make it happen along with even the perfunctory act of registering would render involuntary conscription a nearly complete political and sociological impossibility. The costs of the present system are a small price to pay to deprive future generations of a means of defending this country that was seen as essential for almost its entire history.</p> <p>If kept, ideally women should be subject to registration requirements like young men. Our concept of gender as a society is a lot different now than when the draft was last active, as are the ways wars are fought. It is likely politically unsustainable to keep the draft a male only requirement. Either the draft is applicable to all, regardless of gender or it will likely be applicable to none.</p>

7/16/18	<p>1.Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security?</p> <p>Yes, a military draft is still necessary for national security. While it may not always be necessary to use the draft, if voluntary participation decreases or an extreme national threat occurs it will be beneficial to have a draft.</p> <p>2.Are modifications to the selective service system needed?</p> <p>I feel as if I do not have enough knowledge regarding the selective services system at this time to fully understand what changes would need to be made.</p> <p>3.How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation?</p> <p>I think the only way would be to increase compensation for the specialized work they would be completing.</p> <p>4.What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service?</p> <p>I believe that some barriers are the strict requirements to participate in the military as well as the time commitment needed for military, national, and public service. I think that many people don't view the compensation as benefit enough for the time spent.</p> <p>5.Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it?</p> <p>For some people service does have an inherent value but for others it does not. Its inherit value for some stems from there want to contribute, help, or make a change in the society they live in. They feel that through participating in service they are doing good for society.</p>
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6. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible?

I don't think this is a feasible option. I believe that it would take away the honor that people in the military feel through voluntarily participating. Efforts and results would greatly suffer because people would not have motives to help other than it was required for them to do so.

7. How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve?

I think they would have to target the emotional appeal of what service would bring to their lives and society. An increase in compensation may help but I think the reward and persuasion will come more from the idea that they are making improvements and protecting the people.

7/17/18	<p>The best way to improve recruitment amongst the public services is through primary and secondary education. We must continue to incentivize public service but we have to maintain standards relevant to the agency. Finally, compulsory service is an unnecessary quest - maintenance of Selective Service is vital in the event of a national emergency.</p> <p>Proper education will increase patriotism among our youth and motivate them to stand up to defend our country. Our youth must realize that the freedoms they have must be maintained by them and cannot be secured by somebody else. We need to teach children in pre-school that if they want privileges, then they must contribute by doing things such as cleaning their rooms or helping with the dishes. If you can afford help, don't cripple your children by having someone else do their dirty work for them.</p> <p>In addition, we need to stop teaching the merits of government systems that are diametrically opposed to our own. We must teach our children how the freedoms they have were earned, from the Revolutionary War to the peaceful Civil Rights marches. We need to show them countries that are not free or whose citizenry live in fear of their government.</p> <p>We should teach our children about the agencies that do not get much attention. We should hi-light these other groups and agencies in our media, i.e., TV Shows, Movies, Social Media, High School presentations, and show our young people how heroic these people are and how much of an impact they have on our people and on people of other states.</p> <p>The government must provide proper and proportional incentives to entice our youth to join public service. During good times the proper incentives must be in place to compensate these young people for being willing to risk everything to serve their country. We have to ensure our recruiters are armed with the tools they need to empower them to accomplish this difficult task.</p> <p>There are many people who wish to join the military but due to stringent requirements, they cannot. Many of these people, though they cannot wear the uniform, may still want to serve and the DoD should expand its civilian workforce to be able to bring in many of these skillsets it so desperately needs, but they will remain non-deployable.</p> <p>Compulsory service works in many countries who have situations much unlike ours. Israel, for example, is surrounded by people who don't necessarily get along with them and have even called for their annihilation. Compulsory Service under these conditions makes sense. In the US, however, we are at peace with our neighbors and even when we have been at war in recent times, the people of this country, sans 9/11, never really</p>
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	<p>felt threatened as a whole. We need to maintain Selective Service requirements without any significant changes just to act as a reminder that every able-bodied person can be called upon in the event of a national emergency.</p>
7/17/18	<p>The concept of American democracy is ultimately destroyed when forcing unwilling people to serve. It will be truly effective and patriotic when out of bravery and free will. "Free" being the key word. The draft and selective service is outdated.</p>

7/18/18	<p>1.) Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security?</p> <p>Yes, because in the case of global conflict or national emergency the United States needs to be able to call on its citizens in order to sufficiently address the problem.</p> <p>2.) Are modifications to the selective service system needed?</p> <p>Yes, I think that women should be included in the draft now.</p> <p>3.) How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation?</p> <p>The United States could increase individuals with these skills by shifting their marketing to college students and college grads and providing incentives for these types of people to want to participate in military, national, and public service.</p> <p>4.) What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service?</p> <p>A common barrier to participation in military, national or public service would be medical restrictions. An additional barrier would be that that type of</p>
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	<p>lifestyle does not appeal to a lot of people.</p> <p>5.) Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it?</p> <p>Yes, because you are serving your community and bettering the lives of others in addition to bettering your own life.</p> <p>6.) Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible?</p> <p>While it could be valuable to people in gaining an understanding of their government. I do not think that it is necessary for such a requirement as not everyone is suited for this type of service and their skills could be better put to use elsewhere.</p> <p>7.) How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve?</p> <p>The United States could market the military life and public service life in a more positive manner that would be appealing to Americans and in particular young Americans.</p>
7/19/18	Selective Service seems to be crucial for us to know who can be called upon if needed. Males and females included and maybe age range expanded beyond age 25. May 18-20 year olds may not be the best options for necessary actions and responsibilities.
7/19/18	What of immigrant and immigrant children who want to serve in the US military? A pathway of citizenship for them? Why-according to recent news reports-are they being disqualified?

7/19/18	Thank you for your service :)
7/19/18	<p>I, Trujillo Matthew A., [REDACTED], am a disabled American Veteran of the New Mexico Army National Guard am Mentally, Spiritually, and Psychologically prepared to Engage the Enemies of the United States of America in the event that it would require a rapid build up of U.S. Military Forces to fight on Multiple Fronts, because Failure is Not an Option!!!! I earned a degree in Business Administration and Finance and study Military History on my own time. I go to the Albuquerque VA Hospital to manage the physical, psychological, and spiritual injuries sustained in the line of duty of Military Service. I am motivated to Deciesively win the Global War on Terror against all Enemies Foreign and Domestic, So Help Me God. [REDACTED]</p>
7/20/18	<p>I am from china and have a question : I have watched some movies and TV series about War issued by American .In those movies i saw reflections on this war mostly are controversial i¼Etake <Washington Post> for examplei¼Eit took so much courage and strength to unmask the truth of why Vietnam war last so many year by exposure classified documents. <Forrest Gump > ,another famous movie about this War and how it hurts Americans, <Billy Lynn's midfield battle> <Homeland> and so on. So i think in American, people have very less will to join the army? you guys face a real trouble on recruiting force ? I am very curious</p> <p>It will be very pleasant if you answer back via my email: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Sincerely</p> <p>Wen from Beijing</p>

7/20/18	<p>1. At the very least, I think a draft contingency is still a necessary component of US national security. Thereâ€™s no guarantee on what may happen in the future and itâ€™s more than possible that military forces will be needed. In the event that there arenâ€™t enough volunteers, itâ€™s important to have an alternate recruitment procedure.</p> <p>2. From what I understand of the selective service system, as long as itâ€™s done transparently and fairly I donâ€™t think modifications are needed. Iâ€™m not saying that modifications are unnecessary though as there may be better and more efficient methods of doing things.</p> <p>3. Providing incentives for individuals with the needed skills would be a classic method to encourage more participation in various types of services. Itâ€™s also important to encourage people to volunteer by encouraging participation, and sharing how much help is needed as well as the difference made by such support.</p> <p>4. I think that some of the barriers to participation in various types of service are gender, racial discrimination, and language abilities. I donâ€™t think that these barriers completely prevent people from participating but I do believe that can they create pressure and an environment that makes people feel unsafe.</p> <p>5. I feel that service does have inherent value. Itâ€™s good character building if done correctly and with the right mindset. It also connects those involved with one another as well as the community. It helps us to see that there are many things that we can do to help others or support our country.</p> <p>6. Service is necessary, valuable, and feasible. However, making service mandatory may create problems, especially if those involved arenâ€™t invested, interested, or willing. I feel that service is done better when itâ€™s done willingly and with the proper motives. At the same time, I understand that some services may need to be mandatory because there are certain quotas to fulfill.</p> <p>7. There are a lot of programs available for people to participate in and provide some sort of service. Furthermore, a lot of the programs seem to have some sort of incentive for those that qualify.</p>
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7/20/18	<p>1.Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security?</p> <p>YES IT IS -- REQUIRED MILITARY SERVICE SHOULD BE MANDATORY FOR ALL --WITH PAID PUBLIC SERVICE AFTER A 4 YEAR ENLISTMENT. THE PUBLIC SERVICE OR MILITARY SERVICE CAN BE 2 YEARS OR LONGER IF THE PERSON HAS NO FUTURE EMPLOYMENT POSIBILITIES. NO EXCEMPTIONS WOMEN, NOR RELIGIOUS GROUNDS, NO RICH PERSON EXEMPTIONS NONE, EVEN INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES HAVE BEEN PROVEN TRAINABLE.</p> <p>they can attend college while actively serving if there is no war and can be called back after required military/ public service if war breaks out up until too old or age limit.</p> <p>2.Are modifications to the selective service system needed?</p> <p>PERSON WITH ONLY CHILD -- THAT CHILD SHOULD HAVE DESK DUTY OR RESERVE DUTY IN THE STATES</p> <p>3.How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation?</p> <p>THROUGH THE MANDATORY DRAFT FOR MILLITARY SERVICE. CONTINUAL TRAINING SHOULD BE INCLUDED FOR ALL THAT ARE DRAFTED TO HAVE A TRAINED AND PROFESSIONAL ARMED FORCE. ALLOWING THE DRAFTEE TO HAVE A CHOICE OF JOBS, IF POSSIBLE COULD HELP-- IF THEY WANT TO BE A DOCTOR PROVIDE THE TRAINING, OR AN OFFICER LET THEM AN PROVIDE THE TRAINING, LET THEM TAKE COLLEGE COURSES DURING THE DAY AS WELL AS WORKING AND EXERCISING.</p>
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4.What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service?

THERE SHOULD BE NO BARRIERS -- IF THEY ARE DROPOUTS THEY GO INTO MILLITARY SERVICE AND FINISH THEIR EDUCATION MANDATORY -- IF THEY RUN THEY GO TO MILLITARY PRISONS AND GET EDUCATED AND STILL MADE TO SERVE MAKING AND DOING THINGS FOR THE MILLITARY

5.Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it?

YES A READY FORCE IN NUMBERS AND TRAINING, IT GIVES STUCTURE, DISCIPLINE.

IT REMOVES FROM THE STREETS IDLE UNEMPLOYABLE INDIVIDUALS

6.Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible?

YES IT WOULD REDUCE CRIME, GIVE HOPE TO HOPELESS, REDUCE IDLENESS AND GIVE TRAINING

STOP GIVING SIGN ON BONUSES AND HIGH SALARIES

YES IT IS NECESSARY AND YES IT IS FEASIBLE

7.How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve?

THROUGH THE MANDATORY DRAFT FOR MILLITARY SERVICE. CONTINUAL TRAINING SHOULD BE INCLUDED FOR ALL THAT ARE DRAFTED TO HAVE A TRAINED AND PROFESSIONAL ARMED FORCE. ALLOWING THE DRAFTEE TO HAVE A CHOICE OF JOBS, IF POSSIBLE COULD HELP-- IF THEY WANT TO BE A DOCTOR PROVIDE THE TRAINING, OR AN OFFICER LET THEM AN PROVIDE THE TRAINING, LET THEM TAKE COLLEGE COURSES DURING THE DAY AS WELL AS WORKING AND EXERCISING.

All 18 year olds should be required, they can attend college while actively serving if there is no war and can be called back after required military/ public service if war breaks out up until too old or age limit.

7/21/18	<p>1. I don't believe it is. Part of the standards America stands on is freedom, and if people are drafted and forced to participate in the military, it is going against our freedom and tearing people out of their homes to serve for the country. We have a good number of Americans that would willingly love to serve for the country to protect it. Those are the people that would perform the best as well, because they made the decision, on their own, to fight for America and they didn't have to be forced.</p> <p>2. I think that America being more transparent with its needs to its citizens would help. I am honestly not fully aware of even what needs we have at the moment. I have a general idea, just based on poverty issues and unemployment rates, but when it comes to the military, I have no idea where America's needs are.</p> <p>3. Incentives are always a way to get people to do what you want them to do, but that would be too costly considering Americans are already paying high taxes. I think for the public service needs, each city and community could welcome volunteer work so that the city isn't using its budget on the simpler things. For example, if there was a pot hole in the road, the city could announce the need and get volunteers to fix it so the tax dollars that would be used to fix things like that could be used for education, the homeless population, etc. The hope would be that as more people volunteer and tax dollars are used where they are needed, they could end poverty.</p> <p>4. To be honest, I do not know a lot about this topic, but I think age can be a huge barrier. Also, the fact that people want to start families and lives. People are kind of caught up in their own hopes and dreams and sometimes forget the importance of service.</p> <p>5. Absolutely. People that serve now don't always see the immediate benefits, but the ultimate goal for some is to help make the world a better place for the generations after them. Every bit of service helps and even if you can't see it now, you will feel rewarded knowing that it will eventually make a difference.</p> <p>6. I think it would be awesome if every person did something even if it was as small as planting flowers around the community, but the reality is that a large majority would fight against that because they don't want to have to be forced to do something. It is necessary and would be extremely valuable, but just wouldn't be feasible.</p> <p>7. It is very hard, but just making Americans aware of an ultimate goal they are trying to reach and the benefits that will come with their service. Maybe coming across in a new way with more of an emotional appeal could help. Go for a more positive take on things and the lives that could be changed</p>
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rather than making people feel they are being guilted into service. Start small with just showing people how they could do simple things to help around their communities, so they feel that the service they do is feasible.

7/24/18	<p>As a follow up to the community meeting at Wesley United Methodist Church in Vinton, IA I am sending a summary of what is being taught in the Vinton-Shellsburg Community School District in the area of Civics. This was requested by Moderator Ms. Jeanette James.</p> <p>In the elementary buildings much time is spent on how to treat others with respect and understanding. Students are also expected to be helpful in all ways.</p> <p>At the Middle School level students come up with projects as they see a need such as collecting shoes for the needy and being allowed to contribute a certain amount to be able to wear a hat in school to donate to veterans. Athletic teams do fundraisers and donate to Breast Cancer, pay to wear sweats for Sweats For Vets, and participate in the Backpack program which sends food home with needy students for the weekend.</p> <p>At 8th Grade the focus is on two Iowa Standards. The first being: Powers and Responsibility of Citizens. Under this standard time is spent on voting, jury duty, reasons to join service organizations, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.</p> <p>Iowa Standard Two is: Know the structure and origins of government at all levels which is taught all year as it fits what is happening that year specifically. Also, under this standard time is spent in September on the 5th Amendment. In an election year time is spent on candidate websites (offering no personal opinions) the Project Vote Smart website is introduced as it shows the voting record of all candidates. Open Secrets.org is also used to introduce students to finance breakdown by donors such as personal, business, retired, and industry.</p>
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In January when the Iowa General Assembly convenes they watch the senate and house and study their voting history. In March they watch debating live. February-March students are encouraged to write letters to legislators if they choose to do so. When special political events happen such as the Flynn indictment they use C-SPAN. BBC political is used because they write in a short, neutral, and plain way to be easily understood.

In late April-May the Second Great Awakening of the 1830-40's helps students understand reform groups such as the Abolitionists, Separatists, and Suffragists. They also talk about gun rights and walk-outs.

At the High School level they study different forms of government, the basic structure of various governments such as local, state, and federal and how they are alike and different. Laws and Rights are discussed. Voting covers why, trends, and opinions. City Council meetings are often recorded to analyze what was said, why, and how the results of a vote impacts the community. Students are encouraged to become involved in their community through volunteering and attending meetings to learn.

Submitted by Sue Gates To contact: [REDACTED]

7/24/18	<p>I am 1 of three that has served in harms way. All three of my kids and all my relatives of the next generation have not. The disrespect I have seen is a disgrace. I am a 10 year veteran that is disrespected everyday. I say let them serve, let them get shot at, let them see people shot in the head.</p> <p>They pretend they are proud because they served time in prison. What a joke! Mandatory service!</p>
7/25/18	<p>It is really a nice and helpful piece of info. Im glad that you shared this helpful information with us. Please keep us up to date like this. Thanks for sharing. defbaddeekgk</p>
7/25/18	<p>It's a mammoth playground built of mountains, hills, lakes, rivers, valleys, woodlands,and beaches. fkefdddagffb</p>
7/29/18	<p>the only reason for any free and open society to have a military is to serve the population of that society. if that military is serving the population then they will have no problem attracting people to serve. there has always been resistance to mandatory service and at this point in time ibelieve it would be a disaster to try it. serve the people and people will serve</p>
7/29/18	<p>I urge the commission to end selective service registration. It has created numerous problems for the millions of men who are unable or for a variety of reasons do not register, and unnecessarily lose access to critical services such as financial aid for college. End this burden; do not continue the practice or expand it to women and those of all gender identities.</p> <p>I am a Mennonite and am a conscientious objector to war. Yet there was no place for me to register as such in the selective service registration, effectively erasing the contributions COs have made to this country and the enormous effort and lives jailed and lost to earn that right to alternative service. Please address this issue; if you choose to continue the burdensome, discriminatory practice of selective service registration, include an option for COs.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Michael Miller Yoder</p>

7/30/18	<p>1. Service absolutely has an inherent value. As long as this world turns, there will be people in need. And since life has an inherent value, then so do the actions that uphold life for those who are struggling. Also, serving others is good for the servant. Hopefully, people will become less self-centered; a world with less high maintenance people is better for everyone.</p> <p>2. I am going to guess that this is asking what the United States should do to increase participation in service. I believe patriotism and civic duty should be more of a discussion in school. Students should not leave school still confused about these issues or unaware of what to practically do about it.</p> <p>3. There are educational barriers; patriotism and civic duty are little discussed in school. If people are not informed about these concepts, they will mostly likely underestimate their importance. Some other barriers to military service are have to do with fear. I have a lot of military in my family history, and I thought about enlisting. But I realized that if I found myself in a war zone, I do not think I could bring myself to kill. My guess is that such thoughts are quite common. Politics are also a barrier to some kinds of service. Many people stay as far away from it as possible. Others are all too ready to fight. Neither is conducive to coming together and helping people.</p> <p>4. For military participation, some efforts to foster patriotism from a young age would likely be the best way to help. I will use myself as an example. I have graduated high school, but I do not fully understand patriotism. Putting the people of my own country above the perfectly human people of other nations confuses me. I know the issue is far more complicated than that, and if someone took the time to discuss it with me, perhaps I would come to agree. And perhaps not. Perhaps if the topic was discussed more in school, more young people would join the military with the right reasons. Civic duty is also little discussed in school, probably because it is laden with the fight-inducing topics of politics. But if we could peacefully talk about it in school, hopefully, more people would be willing to participate in national and public services.</p> <p>5. I do believe everyone wishes the draft was not necessary. But if major war comes, a small military is a weakness and puts the country in danger. Willing men should be used as often as possible, but if more are needed, the draft is a necessity. The idea of my boyfriend and other friends being selected makes me feel sick. But shutting our eyes against possible danger will only be regretted if a crisis occurs.</p> <p>6. I know very little, but I have not heard of any issues.</p> <p>7. I do not think a mandatory service requirement would ever be feasible. At least not in a country where freedom is a core value. Whatever service people did under compulsion would be worth very little. Somehow people have to be made to want to serve, perhaps by being taught it is an honor.</p>
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7/30/18

1. Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security?

I do not believe so, and I believe that nobody actually wants a draft to take place. The last time that the draft was used was in 1973 and since then the United States has been involved in numerous amounts of wars around the world. With an all-volunteer army we have been able to be in combat against two different countries and still be stable enough to not require the use of a draft. The military is better off if they maintain an army that doesn't have draftees that probably don't want to be there in the first place.

2. Are modifications to the selective service system needed?

Yes, the current system is fairly expensive and there can be a way to maintain the system without it costing the country so much money. Instead of always having it on standby there should be a process that allows for the Department of Defense to reevaluate the need for service at any given moment to either dismiss or take on the idea of the draft.

3. How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation?

Being a part of the military has many positive and negative effects; however, with the bad ones being more relevant to those not serving in the military. For example, a lot of people know that PTSD is a very serious issue amongst war veterans. Young people benefit due to opportunities related to both education and occupation. If there was an effective way to combat the detrimental effects of the war of these brave individuals, I believe more people would see themselves volunteering for the Military; however, many of our Veterans are disregarded and I have personally seen a lot of them on Skid Row living the saddest of lives.

4. What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service?

There needs to be a bridge built between civilians and military personnel. We need to promote more programs like AmeriCorps that allows individuals to serve for causes that they are passionate about. I believe that the barrier is the government believing that there is more crucial things than educating the youth and taking away their opportunities. When young people feel deprived of a chance to do something they love I don't think they have a

	<p>favorable image of what the government is. Therefore, why would they want to do anything positive in the name of their country.</p> <p>5.Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it?</p> <p>Yes, I believe it does have inherent value but only for those that truly want to be there. Many of us are in our homes living comfortable lives while there is individuals getting ready to go to war for the country. It definitely has value.</p> <p>6.Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible?</p> <p>I do not believe so.</p>
8/6/18	nice to know
8/7/18	I strongly oppose a military draft, or any draft contingency. Mandatory service of any kind isn't service.

8/8/18

Q: The ban on women in combat was lifted a few years ago. Have thoughts on whether women should register with Selective Service?

Women should be allowed to serve in combat. If they have already met all the pre-conditions required to serve in the US military and for their specific job, gender should not be a barrier to serving in combat.

If we have Selective Service in the US, we should also require women to register, as well. If we are to have a Selective Service System, it should be equally attributed among all able-bodied Americans, regardless of their sex, gender, race, sexuality, or identity.

Q: Is a Mandatory Service Requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable and feasible?

Mandatory Service Requirements is a feasible program, if it's administered across the nation based on a state level system. This would give the states flexibility to implement it at a level most appropriate for their state. A federal system would be way too large to implement without running into issues, such as messy bureaucracy. However, I personally disagree with the idea of a Mandatory Service Requirement. While there is feasibility and value in compelling more people to serve their communities and the country for one to two years, I think it may also have the unforeseen consequence of souring people on the idea of service. I would much prefer a system where we incentivize national, military and public service and get a greater voluntary participation. On the national and public service end, it would be on improving and building upon the existing service agencies and programs, like AmeriCorps and Peace Corps. On the military end, having an option for people to serve two years, with an opportunity to reenlist, would likely help boost numbers for people enlisting in the Armed Forces.

8/8/18

Q: How does the US increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve?

I think there are three ways to improve propensity for young Americans to serve: have a bipartisan call to service, better promote current service programs and make service programs and organizations more marketable to employers after service.

A united call to service, especially from highest levels of the US government is important because I think that a key part of getting people interested and engaged in service is to have our leadership inspire and compel Americans to service. It needs to also come from all parties, on the left and right, to ensure that service to country is seen as patriotic and nonpartisan. I believe it is especially important for a positive message of service to country come from the President.

Making people more aware that there are opportunities to serve and a variety of ways to do so is also a good way to engage people in service. Most Americans are likely not aware of ways they can serve their country. Most are probably aware of the military but may already have preconceptions about it, or think they can't necessarily handling a 4 to 8 year contract. If America's service programs are better promoted, more people may know that there are a number of opportunities they can serve their country and may choose to make that decision to serve.

Making people aware that they can serve their country and also use their service to propel their career is an important way to get more people engaged in service. I know a number of people, including myself, that had to convince family and friends that taking a year or two to serve is not going to derail future college or career options. If more people feel as if they do not need to convince people they know that they are doing a noble thing and not harming their career prospects through service, more people may choose to serve. I also think incentivizing employers to hire people who have completed service or making employers more aware of what sorts of skills people who have served may develop is a great way to get more people interested in service and make it feel as if they won't negatively affect their career aspirations if they choose to serve.

Q: What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service?

I believe the biggest barriers are lack of knowledge about national service opportunities. It's difficult to get people engaged in service if they have no

idea there are opportunities out there to serve their communities and that there are a variety of ways to do it. Make national service more known to the public and there will likely be an increase of people who participate in it.

Other barriers are uncertainty of what service may be like, worries that it's going to derail their career, and the financial barrier that people may face because of loans, bills and the very low pay and stipend associated with service.

8/9/18

Q: How can the United States increase participation in military, national and public service by individuals with skills critical to address national security and other public service needs of the nation?

Bring awareness that there are opportunities available to do so and promote them as a positive way to serve one's country and gain great experience out of it.

Q: Does Service have inherent value, and if so, what is it?

There is an inherent value in serving fellow Americans and a greater value in the service of humanity. The two years I was in AmeriCorps felt like the two most valuable years of my life and I hope there are more ways I can have the opportunity to serve in the future.

Q: Why do people serve and why do people choose not to serve? What are ways to increase the number of Americans in the military, national and public service?

	<p>People chose to serve because they feel the need to give back to country and to one's fellow human beings. However, people often chose not to serve because they may not see a financial value in it, and sometimes may see it as a waste of time and energy.</p> <p>To get more people to serve is to make opportunities more available, make people aware of the opportunity to serve, and perhaps give a modest incentive to completing service.</p>
8/9/18	Yes reinstate the draft

8/11/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. I think there is huge value in service to one's country, but I believe that this service should not be compulsory.<li>2. As for military service, add more benefits to those who enlist, such as relief of student debt, the idea of trying to push military service would be like herding cats among today's political youth, as well as a PR catastrophe for the US government.<li>3. For me at least, simply, the fear of death and the derailment of my career, however for public service I think the country needs to come together and foster a greater sense of patriotism in a positive uniting way.<li>4. Salary and benefits, compulsory service is a traumatizing and ineffective tool.<li>5. I believe that with the evolution of warfare that one civilian engineer can do more for the war effort than 100 conscripts on the ground. With the destructive power of nuclear weapons and unmanned systems, the need to take on unwilling recruits should not be relevant.<li>6. I believe it should be abolished altogether, I am a patriot and a proud American but I believe that it is a pillar of our society to be allowed to choose one's path.<li>7. Absolutely not, this undermines not only the "Life, Liberty, and Pursuit of Happiness" that we hold dear, but also would be wholly unnecessary and even more infeasible the general pushback from that legislation would be greater than any civil protest this country has so far seen.
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8/11/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. No2.no3. i dont know4.fight wars that actually protect us not the current 8 "interventions" as you call them5. no it is a breach to our freedom6.eliminate it7.no that is so much worse. that would be worse slavery than thr selective services already is.
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8/12/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. NO. It's an abuse and an misallocation of blood and treasure. 2. A job that's otherwise not available, but you know that. 3. Trust in the government and what service to that government truly means. 4. De-emphasize foreign policy as a zero-sum competition; de-emphasize "defense" and "national security" and restore US's moral high ground in the world (good luck with that!) 5. Never has been. May become so, due to Blow Back. We reap what we sow. 6. Stop abusing our sons and daughters. Commit to their success during and after service. Pay them well and nourish them morally, emotionally, and intellectually, not just physically. 7, No, No. and No. I don't care if you agree or disagree with the first to NO's you can decide that. But it's not feasible because you'll get Viet Nam all over again if you. Lame.
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8/13/18

Federal Register Number: 2018-08328
Federal Register Docket Number: 05-2018-01
ID: NCMNPS-2018-0001-0002

Statement of Betty Ruth, President of the National Association of RSVP Directors to The National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this statement from the National Association of RSVP Directors (NARSVPD) to the Commission. I am the President of NARSVPD and Director of an RSVP program in Athens, Alabama.

When I first read the Commission's purpose "to encourage and inspire more Americans – particularly young people – to serve their communities and country and strengthen American democracy," I concluded that there was no reason to submit remarks because our members are by definition too old to serve in the military and already evidence the ethos of service that you want to promote in our Nation's youth.

But, as I thought more about it, I decided that our members do have something valuable to contribute to your deliberations. First, many of our members have served in either civilian or military service and by continuing to serve past the age of 55, they demonstrate that service is equally as important to the mature as to the young. Second, many of our volunteers serve by helping veterans and military families. They interact with military leaders on bases, they provide needed services to military families, they help veterans find medical care, they help them find employment, and they help to preserve and protect veterans cemeteries. Third, we believe that our volunteers are role models whose examples should encourage others to serve and give back to their country. Finally, investing in RSVP is also a cost-effective way to confront many of our Nation's most intractable social problems.

As you consider policy recommendations, I urge you to remember that 10,000 "Baby Boomers" retire every day and will do so for the next 11 years. This cohort of more than 40 million people represents a source of experience, knowledge, and expertise that we desperately need to tap to improve our communities, our schools and our health care, among other problems.

The National Association of RSVP Directors (NARSVPD) believes that RSVP can play an important role in realizing this vision.

What is RSVP?

RSVP is one of three senior volunteer programs administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service. It is also the largest CNCS program deploying 208,000 volunteers in 627 programs across the country. RSVP volunteers serve in thousands of community-based organizations and with state, local, and county governments.

RSVP provides opportunities for people 55 and over to make a difference in their communities. It offers maximum flexibility and choice to its volunteers by matching the personal interests and skills of volunteers with opportunities to help solve community problems. It offers supplemental insurance while volunteers are serving, pre-service orientation, and on-the-job training from the agency or organization in which volunteers are placed. RSVP volunteers get no stipend but are eligible for reimbursement for meals and mileage, as long as program budgets allow for it.

RSVP is not means tested and recruits volunteers without regard to income. Most serve between 10 and 40 hours a week. Because RSVP is flexible, volunteers provide a wide variety of needed services, including transportation to medical services, offering respite to caregivers, delivering health and nutrition services, supporting veterans and military families, volunteering in parks, police stations and other locations, participating in disaster prevention and relief activities, helping prepare tax returns for elderly and low-income people and leveraging an additional 18,000 volunteers, among

many other activities.

RSVP is cost-effective and an excellent investment. Using Independent Sector’s estimate of the value of an hour of volunteer service, RSVP volunteers provide more than \$1 billion worth of service to the nation each year, while the Federal contribution is \$49 million.

RSVP grantees must provide a match. The required non-federal share is a minimum 10 percent of the total grant in year one, 20 percent in year two, and 30 percent in year three and all subsequent years. CNCS estimated that states and local communities contributed \$39 million in non-federal support in FY 2017.

In FY 2015, RSVP volunteers delivered an estimated 46 million hours of service. Working through a wide variety of nonprofits, city and county governments, local United Way organizations, and faith-based organizations, RSVP volunteers served 329,000 veterans in activities such as transportation and employment service referrals; mentored more than 78,000 children; provided independent living services to 797,000 adults, primarily frail seniors; provided respite services to nearly 20,300 family or informal caregivers; and engaged 20,100 veterans who served as RSVP volunteers.

RSVP volunteers support veterans and military families. Volunteers assist veterans with job search, applying online and mock job interviews. They assist veterans and military families in researching and locating housing, schools, and support services. To cite but a few examples: In 2015, RSVP volunteers in Connecticut established a Veterans coffeehouse to provide socialization for isolated veterans. Volunteers help veterans secure the health, and other, benefits to which they are entitled. RSVP volunteers deliver more than 13,000 homemade cookies a year to families based at Fort Riley. In Oklahoma, volunteers assist Korean War veterans with benefits claims, funeral services, and maintaining the Korean War Memorial and pagoda in Elmer Thomas Park. In Alabama, RSVP volunteers serve at Fort Rucker, Maxwell Air Force Base and Gunter Air Force Base, as well as at Redstone Arsenal Army Base.

RSVP is an important source of disaster prevention and relief. In recent years, RSVP volunteers participated in recovery efforts in Alabama, Missouri, Kentucky, South Carolina, Texas, California, and New York.

Volunteering helps keep seniors vibrant and RSVP volunteers help meet the needs of seniors to keep them in their homes.

A review of a recent article in *The Journal of Gerontology* (2017) reports, “When researchers examined the impact of volunteering over time, they found that volunteering at any number of hours was associated with higher levels of cognitive functioning, compared to not volunteering. Overall, these findings clearly suggest the importance of providing volunteer opportunities of interest to older adults, which can benefit both the population being served and the volunteers themselves.”

A study conducted by Professor Sumedha Gupta, Assistant Professor of Economics at Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis, and reported in the *Wall Street Journal* found that “‘If you keep everything else constant by putting in all these controls and following this individual over time,’ she [Dr. Gupta] says, ‘we find that as people volunteer, their cognitive health scores improve. If they don’t volunteer, their cognitive scores decline faster.’”

“The reasons behind volunteering’s boost to cognitive health, Dr. Gupta says, have to do with the unique characteristics of such activity.”

“For starters, unlike paid work, there is a ‘different subjective well-being’ or ‘warm glow’ that a volunteer experiences from helping people. Volunteering is also unique ‘because it supplies mental, physical and social stimulation in one package,’ Dr. Gupta says. ‘You have to move around, you interact with people, you think about activities.’ Whereas doing a Sudoku puzzle offers one type of intellectual stimulation, she says, volunteers get all of these types of stimulation simultaneously.”

In short, RSVP is a win-win. It serves the community through volunteerism and volunteers, themselves, also benefit from the service they provide.

RSVP is a “destination” for retiring “baby boomers.” Some 10,000 “baby boomers” are retiring everyday and will do so every day for the next 20 years. RSVP is the only national program able to place large numbers senior volunteers in high quality volunteer positions.

I ask that you consider RSVP’s potential when you look to a future in which service to one’s country and community is widespread among all age groups.

Potential:

RSVP enjoys several characteristics that distinguish it from other service initiatives:

- It is not means tested which means that highly skilled adults over the age of 55 can be recruited to serve without regard to income.
- Adults with real world experience can be strategically deployed to meet local needs. Retired health professionals can be recruited to combat opioid abuse and mobilized to reduce obesity, retired lawyers can be recruited to provide legal services to those who need them, retired STEM professionals can be sent back to the classroom to teach math and science and help address the teacher shortage, retired carpenters can be recruited to retrofit homes to reduce falls, and seniors can be recruited to provide respite care to families that are caring for frail seniors.
- Through Memoranda of Understanding and other vehicles, RSVP can provide even greater levels of assistance to veterans and military families and help reduce costs for the Department of Veterans Affairs. As the share of the U.S. population with military experience declines, RSVP is a way to recruit veterans to serve veterans.
- RSVP volunteers do not receive a stipend, which holds down costs. The average cost per volunteer is about \$230. These funds enable RSVP programs identify community needs and continually recruit, train, place, coach and mentor volunteers while they report to CNCS on how programs are meeting their performance goals and other matters.

Conclusion:

In addition to the civic benefits that we get through service, we should not lose sight of the significant economic benefits that service provides us. We face a significant budget crisis in which the demand for domestic services is increasing, as is the need to invest in defense spending. RSVP has a role to play in helping to mitigate this crisis, by providing services that are otherwise unavailable or are only available at higher cost.

As I indicated, the cost of an RSVP volunteer is about \$235 a year and the average cost of an RSVP program is about \$75,000. In 2017, the national median cost of putting one senior in a semi-private room in a nursing home was almost \$86,000. The longer that seniors can live independently the more we can save in Medicare and Medicaid expenses. Unfortunately, the federal budget does not capture what common sense tells us is true: if RSVP volunteers feed people, provide them with transportation to and from medical appointments, help them exercise, retrofit their homes to prevent falls,

reduce obesity, and reduce the number of hospital readmissions, we can save literally hundreds of millions of dollars.

I urge you to think boldly about the future and to imagine a country in which 400,000 seniors with skills, experience, knowledge and a commitment to solving difficult social problems serve their country through RSVP.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for additional information:

[REDACTED]

8/13/18	<p>As an ordained pastor, part of a long Peace Church Tradition , the Mennonites, I ask you to continue to offer a pathway for conscientious objectors to war and state endorsed violence. Also, I request no penalties or punishment for young men or women who do not choose to register for selective service based upon conscience. Penalization may be part of the military's recruitment strategies, but is not a useful behavioral change tool for those of conscience. Offering them a pathway to alternative and voluntary service on behalf of our country has contributed to a long history of war time transformation in our healthcare, our mental institutions, and other social safety nets as workers of conscience have contributed their time and gifts to bring about reforms. Public service always has an inherent value in a society, however, the way it is required or created is important, given religious beliefs and values that may align with one service and not another. Financial Incentivization towards education and skill building pipelines for our youth is one way to engage them in these kinds of voluntary service opportunities.</p>
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8/13/18	<p>As a Mennonite pastor and conscientious objector to all war, I would like to share my thoughts on what would be helpful for Mennonites who want to also serve their country. Future draft policy should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Provide a pathway for conscientious objectors to war to note this on draft cards2) Restore full rights to all people of conscience by overturning lifetime punishments currently in place.3) Incentivize service equally (whether military or alternative service through a church organization) by providing scholarships for college or career training certification<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Make incentives available for women who serve (either in military or in alternative church service) as well. <p>Jeff Hochstetler, Mennonite Pastor, Berlin Ohio</p>
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8/13/18	<p>I am a conscientious objector because of my Christian faith. I have attended a Mennonite church since I was a child and believe strongly in the call to active nonviolent responses to conflict as opposed to meeting violence with more violence. As a woman, I have not registered with the Selective Service because I am not required to, but I did do a year of AmeriCorps as a way to give back to the country. I think that many young adults would like to contribute in positive ways to their country and community, and I think that having mandatory service would unite Americans across many demographic categories (something with is needed more and more). I do not think, however, that the service should have to just be military. I think that civilian community service would be a wonderful addition to our country (as in AmeriCorps).</p> <p>I also think that young people should be able to register with the Selective Service as conscientious objectors, instead of having to go through a more roundabout process (as it is now). It is not as though conscientious objectors want to hide or shirk duty. I would gladly have registered as a conscientious objector had it been an option (at all, and more specifically, for women).</p> <p>Thank you for asking for comments on this important issue.</p>
8/13/18	<p>It should be law that every able-bodied person in America either attend 2 years of college/vocational training, 2 years in Americorps, or 2 years in the military. High School graduation should be mandatory. We need to prepare our youth for a productive life by required service to America. Maybe we would see a drop in street gangs and prison overcrowding if young people had more opportunity to grow and develop with education and service to others.</p>

8/13/18	<p>1. Service creates opportunities to build relationships with people outside of one's typical socio-economic sphere, religio-cultural perspective and broadens one's world-view. Service also broadens one's understanding of self, teaches practical work skills, and can increase confidence and expose one to new opportunities.</p> <p>2. Incentivize with tuition forgiveness. Build in college credit opportunities. Establish and deposit money into a savings account when service is completed. Do a "Story Corp" type of public service announcement series with people answering what they gained from doing service. Greatly expand how service is understood and that it includes more than "military" service. Don't tie the "value" so much to being a good "patriot" but rather being a good "human being."</p> <p>3. Military service is way over emphasized and other types of service are under emphasized. College debt makes service seem a foolish investment of time.</p> <p>4. Emphasize the "public service" needs. Better health care is "national security." Prison reform is "national security." Mental health service is "national security." Education is "national security."</p> <p>5. No. We can be more creative and smarter than that.</p> <p>6. Yes. Insure that persons can identify if they are "conscientious objectors to military force/violence" on any selective service form that is required. There are many conscientious objectors who do not object to serving in non-military capacities.</p> <p>7. Only if all types of service, military and non-military, were treated in the same way; pay, debt forgiveness, anti-racism training component, cultural awareness education component, etc.</p>
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8/14/18	<p>Question for Commission on future events September onward, and to be included as a RFI COMMENT- Docket 05-2018-01</p> <p>1- Sept. 19-21 in Los Angeles, San Diego meetings. Has days and locations been established for these public events?</p> <p>2- Any plans for more public events after September 30th deadline? Will the public still be encouraged or be able to submit comments after deadline, know they will have lesser or no impact to final report?</p> <p>3- Do you know of any institutions, think-tanks such as the Aspen Institute that might be mirroring the work of the commission in a more public nuanced website of details, nuance, history, and various public policy perspectives?</p> <p>4- Women registration for Selective Service System, a minor but important detail in any legislative proposal. Early this year I read more detailed article on Congressman's Hunters one-page bill to include women in the registration process. What I had perceived as a simple way to include women in the registration process, if it had become law, would have required all women from 18 to 27(?) to register initially, due to legal requirements that males remain registered until age 27(?). It is unclear to me if Senator McCain's women registration requirement mirrored the language of this bill or proposed more nuance requirement of only having women starting at a certain year to start registering on their 18th birthday only. It seems to me that it would be a logistic nightmare, let alone a public up roar if initial registration required such a large number of women to register. I hope this one, of thousand details is on your awareness list, but wanted to be sure this minor but significant detail is written with clarity.</p> <p>5- More details to follow on these questions. There is a Department of Defense (DOD) report (per GAO July 2017 to Commission and Congress) Report on the Purpose and Utility of a Registration System for Military Selective Service. However, this report is the same contents of a published preliminary report that was completed by DOD in March 2017. I have invested/wasted much time and effort in trying to understand what this truly means regarding when the report was sent to Congress and/or Commission. I have speculated on various bureaucratic reasons for this four-month difference, but wonder what really happened?</p> <p>6- GAO report NATIONAL SECURITY: Ongoing Review of the Military Selective Service Process Could Benefit from Additional Information GAO-18-226: Published: Jan 10, 2018. Publicly Released: Jan 10, 2018.</p> <p>7- I wonder if there is any public details on what happened to inspire Senator McCain as Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee to propose in June 2016 the establishment of this Commission and including women in the registration process of the Selective Service System.</p> <p>In early May 2016 I became aware in the news that the House Armed Services Committee, during the markup of DOD 2017 Defense bill voted to include women. Watching the video of these hearings I also learned more about this vote, and that Chairman Thornberry had added the above DOD review to the bill.</p> <p>One, two weeks later I had a brief conversation with Senator Angus King, Maine, member of Armed Services Committee at U.C. Berkeley. I gave him</p>
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info about the vote tally, and Chairman Thornberry's request for a formal DOD review. Senator Angus King seemed very interested in this info, indicated he was not aware of either, got a okay photo with him, gave him additional info on my 36 year interest in this topic.

Never heard back from Senator King, but in June learned of Senator McCain's proposals. Just wonder if my efforts helped move something forward or was just adding to something that was already moving forward.

Realize that this mystery may never be solved, because I do not have the resources, patient, to persist in getting a interesting but irrelevant question except for me.

Sorry for nuanced details, and realize only a few staff people know, not sure who they are, if they even recall, or care to set the record straight. Peter Jesella

8/14/18	<p>The military draft is not a necessary component for US national security. The US has shown that in times of dire national need, such as during the second world war, it is fully capable of creating an army through voluntary enlistment and the creation of a draft. Maintaining a draft system while no such need is present is wasteful in terms of national resources, and a burden to the general population.</p> <p>Should the selective service system remain despite the fact that it provides no benefit to the American public, it should incorporate ways for individuals to identify themselves as religiously, morally, or ethically opposed to war in any form.</p> <p>A mandatory service requirement for all Americans is not necessary, valuable, or feasible in any way. Such a requirement would invalidate the ideals of freedom this nation was founded on.</p>
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8/14/18	<p>As a Mennonite pastor and conscientious objector to all war, I would like to share my thoughts on what would be helpful for Mennonites who want to also serve their country. Future draft policy should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Provide a pathway for conscientious objectors to war to note this on draft cards2) Restore full rights to all people of conscience by overturning lifetime punishments currently in place.3) Incentivize service equally (whether military or alternative service through a church organization) by providing scholarships for college or career training certification<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Make incentives available for women who serve (either in military or in alternative church service) as well. <p>Jeff Hochstetler, Mennonite Pastor, Berlin Ohio</p>
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8/14/18	<p>I urge you to recommend ending Selective Service registration. As a member of the Mennonite Church USA, I am a pacifist on religious grounds and oppose war, and the preparation for war, in all its forms.</p> <p>If the Selective Service registration is to continue, then at least I would ask for the option for young people to register as conscientious objectors.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Rev. Dr. Daniel Schrock, Goshen, Indiana</p>
8/14/18	<p>I do believe serving the public is a good idea, however, I don't see the inherent value of it if it is forced. Additionally, it should not be limited to just military. The draft is irrelevant and should stay irrelevant.</p>
8/15/18	<p>I believe in addition to determining ways to attract young people to military service, there should also be consideration as to ways to retain service members. My son is currently serving in the Army and is just 9 months into his 3 1/2 year contract and is already being promised a reenlistment bonus equivalent to twice his annual salary. Clearly retention is a problem. He wanted a specific career path and talked at length with his recruiter, insisting on the MOS code he wanted. At his contract signing the code had been changed. My son questioned it and was told it gave him more options, including the job he wanted, and it would be his choice. That was a lie. Now he is held in a job he did not want, with no opportunity to change until he is up for reenlistment. My son had planned to make a career in the Army, but now does not trust what he is told (when you reenlist you can change your MOS) and is not willing to risk reenlisting, only to learn he cannot change his MOS. He has learned there are many others serving with him who had similar experiences.</p> <p>There are many people who enlist who have no idea what they want to do. Guide those recruits into the positions that need to be filled (enabling recruiters to make their quota), but allow those who have the skill and heart for a specific position the opportunity to serve their country proudly.</p>

8/15/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Mandatory civilian public service w/o exception has an inherent value. (Voluntary service has a deeper inherent value, but without service being mandatory, few will volunteer.) The inherent value is to teach that your life is not entirely your own, that there limits to independence and those limits are salutary to civic consciousness and identity when put to the greater good. 2. The U.S. has little role in the increased desire to serve. This desire is rooted in family and religious values and training. 3. Barriers ought to be limited to demonstrable and severe access and functional disabilities. Even then, avenues should be made for the goal of 100% inclusion. No bone spur exemptions. 4. Increased participation for national and public service: incentivize by offering equivalent of state university tuition (or trade school), room, board, books, laptop, health insurance, and living stipend for every year served up to a maximum of four years. 5. Conscientiously-chosen national service (military, public, civilian) should be mandated. It should not be a contingency. 6. Do away with the selective service system. Develop and effectuate a mandatory service system for everyone, without exemptions, except as noted in #3. 7. Mandatory service is necessary and valuable. Feasible? No.
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8/15/18	<p>1) Service to our nation has immeasurable value. Service in the Army changed the course of my life forever and I can't thank my past self enough for enlisting at 18.</p> <p>2) I believe in compulsory public service. The military is not for everyone so, it could be an option for some following graduation from high school. I feel strongly that we need to reinvigorate/reestablish public service programs. We have billions of dollars in maintenance backlogs in our national parks and public lands, parents in need of affordable childcare, elderly and disabled people that need care and companionship among a myriad of other services that would enhance our country and unite our citizens.</p> <p>3) Most of the barriers to these types of service is perceived inconvenience (not really a barrier at all). I believe that short of debilitating medical conditions (these waivers should be extremely limited and case by case) we can find something for you to do.</p> <p>4) I believe allowing as much freedom and choice in how we serve is paramount to the success of this program. Creating a digital clearinghouse of national needs and letting people apply to fill those priority positions benefits both parties. Eligibility for education benefits (Pell grants), SNAP, SSI, and other forms of federal assistance should be tied to national service. I would also include restricting passports and increasing tax rates to compel wealthier Americans to participate in this program. This should not be a program targeted at the poor where the wealthy receive waiver after waiver to avoid service. This is a program for all Americans and should be the minimum amount you need to invest in this country for it to provide for you.</p> <p>5) I believe we should abolish the draft. If a war is worth fighting our citizens will step up to serve in the military. I do believe strongly in compulsory national service and the military could fulfill that requirement compulsory military service should not be a national policy.</p> <p>6) If you are intent on keeping Selective Service it should be required of all citizens male or female and regardless of religious affiliation.</p> <p>7) Mandatory service is necessary, valuable, and feasible. We're seemingly more divided by the day in this country. Mandatory service provides people with valuable skills and forces them to live and work with people outside their routine peer group. This has immense value to the individual and the country. If we are going to survive as a multi-ethnic republic we need to understand and respect our neighbors even if they are different than us. This program would be a long term investment in the peace and prosperity of this country. As far as feasibility, was landing on the moon feasible in 1957? No, but by 1969 we had done it, how? We made it a national priority. This program could be the same but, we need to articulate a vision for it and invest the resources necessary for it to succeed.</p>
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8/15/18	<p>"Service" need not be understand as merely military service. There are many, many types of public service, all of which should be valued.</p> <p>We need equal standards for men and women.</p> <p>We need clear, consistent pathways for conscientious objectors.</p> <p>Debt forgiveness (e.g. school loans) would help.</p>
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8/15/18	<p>1. Service can have inherent value of learning to help others during a natural disaster or national emergency.</p> <p>2. You cannot increase desire for service. To force it is wrong. Some high schools require so many hours of public service for graduation. This is involuntary servitude. For incentives, offer to pay off college loans, or those not yet in college, scholarships.</p> <p>3. For barriers to military service, it's the fear of getting killed.</p> <p>4. If you are looking for individuals with critical skills, pay them more.</p> <p>5. The military draft has not been needed or used in 35 years. What your Commission does not understand about some religious groups (Mennonites, Quakers, Brethren) is our view of the Bible that any participation with the military is wrong, "conforming to the world" (Romans 12:2) and even the act registration is participation. To make it a felony to not register clashes with our beliefs.</p> <p>6. Modifications must be that if registration continues, you must provide a pathway to register as a Conscientious Objector at the time of registration. You must remove the lifetime penalty, that if someone has not registered by age 26, they forever lose certain benefits. That is exceptionally cruel. And, modifications should include that States cannot add additional penalties for not registering, or automatic registration. For example, in Kansas, when a boy applies for a regular (age 16) driver's license, his information is sent directly to Selective Service, effectively registering him at age 16. This should be banned, because States should not be in the business of enforcing federal laws.</p> <p>7. Mandatory service requirement: Necessary? No. Valuable? To whom? The country? Maybe. Feasible? No. End Draft Registration Now. But, keep on the books laws allowing Conscientious Objectors the option to do Alternative Service.</p>
8/16/18	If we do away with selective service how will we handle national emergencies or large scale or multiple war fronts that spread our military services too thin?
8/16/18	How do we inspire volunteer organizations to work with school counselors and college academic advisors to encourage student volunteerism?
8/16/18	nice to know à¼^é«~ã... çÿ¥é¸“

8/17/18	<p>My name is Edward Newby. I am a retired Navy Commander (O-5) and 2018-2019 AmeriCorps VISTA. I retired in March 2017 after 23-years of active service. I joined the Navy in 1990, attended college on an NROTC scholarship, and was commissioned in 1995. I was not happy in my post-Navy job and realized that I really enjoyed serving. I stumbled upon AmeriCorps after researching the Peace Corps. I wanted to continue to serve at the community level and discovered that I could do so, in my hometown, through AmeriCorps. So I resigned my position in early May 2017, moved back to Memphis, TN, and within a month I was a 2018-2019 VISTA in Memphis. And I am having a blast! I am adapting my leadership and management skills in a live non-profit operational environment and accumulate experiential hours to make me a more attractive nonprofit management candidate.</p>
8/17/18	<p>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?</p> <p>Give the Corporation for National Community Service a presentation platform at the Department of Defense transition seminars for separating service members. This outreach is best aimed at enlisted and junior officers separating between the 4-8 years of service. This group is typically between the E-3 to E-5 and O-3 to O-4 paygrades and almost always pursuing some type of post-military education. Presenting to separating military at transition seminars can at the very least make people aware that the continue their call to duty in equitable and meaningful way out of uniform. Plus, why should potential candidates "stumble" across AmeriCorps? Why should private charities and nonprofits that assertively recruit veterans be our only means to continue to give back? AmeriCorps could make its type of service even more attractive to service members if it were to amend its policies for this demographic of its volunteer population and allow veterans to pursue part-time education while they are serving as VISTAs. This should enable veterans to use their post-9/11 GI Bill allowances to off-set their living expenses.</p>

8/18/18	<p>Now I believe that the military and recruitment is fine, except for one thing: The Selective Service System, which should be abolished. I see it unjust that male citizens must sign up for this act, or else they will not receive federal financial aid, as well as being jailed and fined. Whereas, female citizens can receive federal financial aid without registering. The best way to ensure that "All Men are created Equal" (men meaning all citizens of course) is not to force female citizens to sign up too, but instead abolish this act altogether.</p> <p>If anything, the Selective Service System, as well as any other attempts at mandatory service, harbors resentment among citizens towards the military, as seen in the burning of draft cards during Vietnam War protests. Of course it is highly unlikely that men registered in Selective Service will be drafted, but the fact of the matter is, the potential to be drafted lingers over their heads. Say there comes a time when men will be drafted though, this would mean some men who registered regardless of whether they wanted to fight or not, would be put on the battlefield. Soldiers who are unwilling to fight can have a detrimental effect on their battalions, in that they are fighting for a cause that they do not believe in, and consequently don't fight well.</p> <p>Also, the Selective Service Act is not necessary, even when fighting threatens the country itself because when the livelihood of men and women are at risk, they will most certainly fight to protect it. After all, it is human nature to fight to survive a threatening situation.</p> <p>Furthermore, forced service is arguably a violation of 13th Amendment Rights in that forced service is involuntarily servitude. Of course it is acceptable if a citizen voluntarily chooses to enlist, but involuntary service is involuntary servitude because both are instances of forced labor. If a person were to refuse to comply in either situation, he or she comes under the threat of severe punishment.</p> <p>As such, if my input is ever read by this commission, I urge You, the members of this commission to do everything in your power to repeal the Selective Service Act to preserve the liberty and morale of America.</p>
8/20/18	<p>We must reduce student loan debt! As a young person currently serving in the Peace Corps who also proudly served two terms of national service with AmeriCorps NCCC, I am living proof that more people will serve if debt-free. I'm grateful I received a generous scholarship to university, graduating without any debt and thus now 32, 'am still so grateful my 20s were a debt-free decade traveling with intention through work with meaning. We can and must make such opportunities possible for so many more young people. - Adam Greenberg. http://AdamGreenberg.com</p>
8/20/18	<p>How is it that the Commission is all white? Look like a representation of the current administration and NOT the American population. Waste of taxpayer money!</p>
8/23/18	<p>Is there a planned "town hall" meeting on the west coast this summer?</p>
8/25/18	<p>Individuals with minor disabilities are promoted from serving in the military when there are many non-combatant positions they could serve in.</p>

8/27/18	Service has no value, at least from my personal experience. The US military is now nothing more than a self-congratulatory dog and pony show. Wars aren't won by Americans unfortunately, despite the obscene levels of funding that taxpayers provide. Americans simply die in shitty countries because they were somewhere they shouldn't have been. As long as women are exempt from Selective Service registration there will never be "world peace", nor will misogyny ever disappear from the American public. Why would anyone want to join an organization that can't win wars??? SAD!!!
8/27/18	<p>1) I believe it does. I was taught to give more than you take and to be worth more to your employer than what you are paid. There is something intangibly valuable about service to others.</p> <p>2) That is stereotypically tough with the new generation, but I have found that when they are interested and see what service does, they get more involved.</p> <p>3) I don't believe there are barriers to participation except in extreme circumstances; and, generally those barriers would not be limited to public service.</p> <p>4) A competitive salary is always helpful especially for those with families to support. Pushing down the need for these skills to the high school level would be the best way.</p> <p>5) I believe a draft contingency is necessary. Hopefully it will never be needed, but that ability could prove critical if the need arises.</p> <p>6) Since there has not been a draft in about 45 years, I don't see that we need to make any changes.</p> <p>7) Mandatory service would be a great thing for all Americans. It would be extremely valuable not only to the USA, but to the individual. I believe with the huge diversity in our nation it could be a great tool to pull citizens together. I do not know how feasible it would be.</p>
8/28/18	<p>Public service could do good for the country. But I believe it would be more sincere and beneficial to inspire people rather than require people. When people have passion and motivation, people can do great things. You don't get that kind of passion and motivation when it is simply something required.</p> <p>This also applies to the idea of mandatory service. Mandatory service won't be nearly as effective as a voluntary force because mandatory conscripts are forced to be there.</p>
8/28/18	Are you ever going to get some color in your white-washed office...or rename your commission, "inspirewhites2serve.gov"

8/28/18	<p>The current approach to contractual terms of service and subsequent characterization of service discharge practices distort the market-based efficiencies envisioned by early AVF advocates, and needlessly punishes those brave enough to volunteer but not well-suited to serve. A contracted term of service approach to manning the AVF retains implicit opportunity costs that exceed those of a Continuously-Volunteer Force (CVF)—that is, one in which volunteers are not bound by term of service contracts and are therefore free to quit at any point. Similarly, the AVF contracted terms of service retain enforcement costs required to mandate that volunteers complete their term of service. While decidedly less than those required of the Vietnam draft era, these enforcement costs (e.g., legal, medical, administrative) will always exceed those of a truly voluntary work force free to quit without fear of employer reprisals. While the AVF undoubtedly improved the combat effectiveness of the military relative to the mixed force of the Vietnam era, this was largely due to the recruitment and retention of high quality recruits (HQRs) by means of positive incentives (e.g., improved pay and quality of life). DoD ability to overcome HQRs reluctance to be contractually bound via enlistment bonuses, etc., has peaked, and aggressive changes will be required to entice these college-bound recruits. Finally, contracted terms of service needlessly stifle: (1) important feedback loops to senior leaders who might otherwise be tipped off by high attrition within units with poor workplace conditions (e.g., hazing, bullying, sexual harassment)—re-enlistment rates and unit climate surveys are poor proxies for more immediate feedback methods like quitting, and (2) important leadership innovations meant to stem unit attrition once it is identified.</p>
8/28/18	<p>I was awarded the Silver President’s Volunteer Service Award for my volunteer work in Geneva, New York, while a student at Hobart College. Today I am writing in opposition to a mandatory public service requirement. The service I voluntarily offered to my community was very different from the mandatory “service” being considered by the National Commission for Military, National, and Public Service. Government-mandated “service” is a threat to our freedom. It has more in common with the concept of “involuntary servitude” mentioned the 13th Amendment than the typical volunteer work of engaged citizens. If the United States is to remain a free country, community service needs to be voluntary - not compulsory, obligatory, or involuntary. Americans will see such an imposed obligation as a threat to our freedom. Government-mandated “service” has the potential to force Americans to work on behalf of projects with which they disagree. For example, the Border Patrol is now separating immigrant children from their parents and holding the children in cages. If Americans doing national “service” were required to “serve” on that government project, a large number would not be comfortable doing so. Situations like this can rise to a level of conscience, and even more so if military service is involved. Compulsory military induction is a particularly evil form of obligatory “service” because the government is forcing a citizen to kill, claiming justifications that are subsequently revealed as erroneous at best and deceitful at worst. From the alleged Gulf of Tonkin incident that lead to the Vietnam conflict, to allegations about Saddam Hussein’s Weapons of Mass Destruction, the American people have noticed that American leaders will lie to justify sending the American military to die and kill in foreign wars. With a draft, the American government will play the role of the malevolent dictator that forces its young people to kill for a lie. Mandatory military service is currently in effect in Syria and Eritrea, and thousands of young men are evading the draft by fleeing these countries. Should the United States impose military obligations on its youth, many Americans subject to such compulsion will engage in draft avoidance and evasion. This behavior will reach up into the highest echelons of American society; Presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Donald Trump have all been accused of behaviors similar to those evading the draft. Americans will even flee the country over this issue: up to 40,000 young men fled to Canada during the Vietnam draft. If the United States makes the mistake of re-instituting a similar draft, Americans unable to find other ways to avoid the draft will leave the United States to escape their obligations the way so many Syrians and Eritreans have fled their countries. The type of “service” this Commission is exploring is very problematic. It is my hope that Americans will continue to be free to volunteer, or not, as they see fit.</p>

8/29/18	<p>While service is an inherent good that should be celebrated by society, service that is compulsory, mandatory, militaristic, or nationalistic in nature is neither necessary, valuable, nor feasible.</p> <p>The inherent value of service lies in the personal realization that we are all endowed with certain gifts, including a right to life, liberty, and happiness. Service is an opportunity for individuals or groups to recognize the possession of their respective gifts and use them for the benefit of others, which can increase happiness and well-being for all parties involved.</p> <p>If the U.S. desires for its citizens to serve, the U.S. must continuously work to create a country and systems that are worthy of serving. This includes systems of support networks, services, and protections. These systems must be provided domestically to U.S. citizens and residents, as well as globally, in recognition of our privilege and global citizenship. One powerful, yet simple change that would make this possible is demilitarization. The portion of the U.S. discretionary budget exhausted by the military is outrageously large, and reallocating these resources to more ethical causes would create a reality where in the U.S., citizens are better provided for and more likely to be compelled by a sense of patriotism, and globally justice can be pursued by U.S. outreach abroad rather than destroyed by weapons and selfish interests. We must continue building and developing our country so that individuals are compelled by love and appreciation for all life rather than fear and protection.</p> <p>Barriers to participation in military or other service include varying levels of privilege, destructive history, and moral objection. Selective Service puts a burden on men who do not register, causing millions to experience hardship in the form of losing eligibility for a driver's license or having to pay fines. Another barrier is the destructive history of the U.S. Rather than expecting all citizens to serve a country that enslaved entire races and stole land from native peoples, the government should be asking how it can work to repair the damage that has been done. Finally, a moral obligation exists for many people, including conscientious objectors, who find that military service is unacceptable due to their values that include not killing others. The right to conscientiously object from military service must be honored and protected, and the government must restore full rights to all people of conscience by overturning lifetime punishments.</p>
8/31/18	<p>What is your telephone number in Arlington,VA?</p>
8/31/18	<p>I cannot believe you do not have a telephone or email contact available on your website. I want to call you in Arlington, VA but cannot find a way to do so. This is a serious oversight that should be corrected now, Roz Heid</p>
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8/31/18	<p>Hello and Good Morning...</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to serve yet again. I have considered the aforementioned questions and here are my responses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes, it does have inherent value. Service, albeit Armed Forces or Civil Service) at an early age or exposure, instills a sense of ownership, accountability and overall commitment to something other than oneself. Learning to network, communicate, listen...above all things, and engage issues collectively creates general understanding of a problem fostering mutual gains understanding and troubleshooting skills. In place of organizational sports where the individual as well as the team are rewarded when the victory is won....someone with these skills can adapt better to a loss where they learn how to win, yet can function in both mindsets. 2. Short answer....define the message. Ask yourself, "how is it delivered"? "Where is it found and who does it relate to"? Often when these questions are answered people / business are finding out that their message is not only lost...it is wrong, for the generation and audience which they seek to engage and gain their interest. 3. Barriers to service....a lack of interest, knowledge/awareness/exposure to subject matter availability. Generational separation in upbringing whereby "lives of service" are not valued, and not enough communication early on in development which creates its own barriers. 4. Find the answers to previous questions #2 & #3, then...recruit from the demographics / geographical area that best represent the audience or mindset which is intended to be reached...."look like whom you wish to reach on paper and message". 5. Yes....the draft is still and will increasingly become more important is the aforementioned issues or questions are not adequately addressed. Simply put....if you fail to plan....you plan to fail. With less and less people from each generation seeking paths of military, National, or civil service the draft for either will be a necessary tool for sustainment in future National Security and Service to this Nation in both realms of participation. 6. Yes....case in point, the media is out dated. Half of the hyper links on this web page don't work, and the message is stale. 7. Yes, let's get with the country and remove all barriers to service. All genders, sexual orientation, and nationalities should be considered. If you have ownership...national pride, and you feel valued....you will protect and serve this nations interests. <p>We must...not just for our future, but more so for the future of this great nation seek and find the next Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Leroy Petry, John Chapman, Lori Piestewa, and empower them to own their generations greatness.</p>
9/1/18	<p>My family since WWII all served. The Bible says deployments are 6 weeks I believe. The troops would be stronger with shorter deployments. Could military jobs be broken down where parts are done by more civilians and more women? I am 53 and on unemployment for the 2d time since 2009, not to mention lots of no jobs between jobs,when I did not apply for unemployment. I would work for the military. Medical benefits alone beats a retail job.</p> <p>Huge barrier for all govt jobs is listing all old jobs on applications. Secretaries, IT and others have so much contract work. I would have a book if I tried to write it down. Govt jobs should have the ability to pull that info from IRS records. Fear of death is most likely reason for not joining and being removed from family. Training for in demand jobs. Train civilians to fill gaps. Have classes at workforce commissions. I am in Tx and not sure if unemployment agencies use same name nationwide. I have 2 master's level courses in project management and would love a job. Only looking for administrative assistant. I am sure I am too old to deploy and thank God because I would be scared. God bless all our military. Keep them safe. And for that Dallas area job offer... [REDACTED]</p>
9/1/18	<p>It's time to treat men and women equally in selective service registration.</p>

9/3/18	<p>Hello there,</p> <p>My name is Aly and I would like to know if you would have any interest to have your website here at inspire2serve.gov promoted as a resource on our blog alychidesigns.com ?</p> <p>We are in the midst of updating our broken link resources to include current and up to date resources for our readers. Our resource links are manually approved allowing us to mark a link as a do-follow link as well</p> <p>.</p> <p>If you may be interested please in being included as a resource on our blog, please let me know.</p> <p>Thanks, Aly</p>
9/3/18	<p>I retired from Army. A son graduated USMA and is serving. I firmly believe that we need a return to the draft. We accomplish 3 objectives with a draft:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We insure more public ownership of the consequences of the use of force. We narrowly dodged large scale deployments into Syria a year or so ago. There was no serious public debate in this matter. I believe that the public discussion would have been different if the draft was in effect. 2. Rural areas of the United States provide a disproportionate share of our force. The obligation and burden should be shared equally across the social and economic breadth of our nation. This is a form of internal nation building that should be utilized. 3. A draft will enhance full employment while providing skills and teamwork building on a large scale in our nation. <p>Good luck to each commissioner on this matter.</p>
9/3/18	<p>Please end registering/drafting. They can make do with volunteers/recruitment techniques.</p>
9/3/18	<p>There is a lack of any need for the selective service system, during this day in age. Considering the extensive amount of "force multipliers" (ie weaponry and specialized equipment), the quantity of those needed for contingency situation through conscription is arbitrary. While mandatory service is utilized in countries where the state does not have enough volunteers, they utilize these conscripted citizens for civil service or a period of military training. Both of which can be studied extensively and show that there is not a huge benefit to a national service requirement when compared to the United States. One should understand the necessity of quality versus quantity of the members being placed into service. Questions of motivation and desire for that service need to be answered. The majority of the public prefers to not spend time on mandatory service - it delays their ability to earn a career, higher education, etc.</p> <p>While we should look into motivating people to volunteer for service, it's important to look inward at why or what people have discussed with those interested. There's a clear difference of reasoning between recruiters and what those who stay in service actually desire. The difference of what happens in service and the effects of taking time to be in the service. On top of that, the quality of those joining - many are high school educated. Anyone with college education prefers their own career field because it has more application to their education and skills.</p>

	<p>Last point is the politics and processes of the military. It's inefficient in some sense. People see and hear that. They don't want to be involved because of the lack of transparency.</p>
9/5/18	<p>1. End required selective service (draft) registration for men.2. Do not begin requiring that women register.3. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	<p>1. End required selective service (draft) registration for men.</p> <p>2. Do not begin requiring that women register.</p>
9/5/18	<p>1. End required selective service (draft) registration for men.2. Do not begin requiring that women register.3. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.4. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	<p>1. End required selective service (draft) registration for men.2. Do not begin requiring that women register.3. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	<p>A period of service to their country if participated by all young people, not just the poor or the militant, can be useful to all concerned. I write to urge that if a draft of temporary service is required of young residents of the U.S., that they be offered the alternate choices of conscientious objection to military service, in the form of general service to the needy in the U.S. (children, the elderly, the sick or disabled) at pay equal to that paid to those doing military service.</p> <p>Many young men and now young women as well have had their minds, bodies, and spirit permanently damaged by being trained to kill and destroy, in the name of "war" concocted by the military industrial complex president of which Eisenhower warned us. Many are only harmed by this experience,</p>

	some permanently, and many of them form the homeless, unemployable, often criminal populations of our towns and cities. For a country to train a segment of its youth to fight a so-called enemy who has done them no harm is inevitably confusing and destructive of their well-being.
9/5/18	Creating one branch of service: Conscientious Objectors
9/5/18	end the selective service requirement for all males and do not institute for females.
9/5/18	Every citizen should give at least 2years of service even if it in a support role BRING BACK THE DRAFT
9/5/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. End required selective service (draft) registration for men. 2. Do not begin requiring that women register. 3. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. 4. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	Remember what happened in the 60's & 70's???
9/5/18	<p>In an age of Endless War" this country should have a full fledged draft of all genders where any conflict exceeds a 90 day emergency.</p> <p>The Congress has defaulted on its responsibility, Presidential power is out of control, and the military industrial complex effectively ensures that no conflict will end, wars are simply too profitable!</p> <p>I am a veteran of 3.5 years of the Viet Nam conflict, a worthless endeavor that accomplished nothing!</p>
9/5/18	End required selective service registration (the draft)

9/5/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. End required selective service (draft) registration for men. 2. Do not begin requiring that women register. 3. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. 4. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service.
9/5/18	<p>End Military Drafts...War is a lost cause and only creates more of the same. A World of Peace would be much more desirable!</p> <p>Everyone and anyone should be able to register as a "Conscientious Objector", if registration is required.</p> <p>Any Non-military Service must pay equal to the amount as military service.</p> <p>The World does Not need war. Corporations, or any other organization, that could profit by war, should be shut down. War should never be, "For Profit"!</p>
9/5/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Either abolish SS registration for men or make it mandatory for both/all genders and gender identification, preferably the latter. 2) Conscientious objection should be an option for everyone, regardless of religious affiliation or none at all, in regard to military service. 3) Make national service a requirement for all Americans at 18 or 19, or after training or further education. National service should not be limited to military service, and compensation should be at least equal to military pay and benefits. National service is one way to engage young people in civic life and appreciation for our country. As such, it has inherent value to the nation and to the individual. 4) Should the Selective Service once again be used to draft young people for military service, there should be no exemptions for education or any other reason. Everyone serves, or no one serves.

	<p>M. David Preston, DVM</p> <p>GCP Auditor</p>
9/5/18	<p>Stop the constant march to war. Work for peace, not war. War causes chaos and destruction and breeds enemies. Use our military for peaceful service only both here and abroad. Use them to help rebuild our infrastructure. Use them to rebuild countries abroad that we have destroyed with our drones. We must end all wars if we are to survive in our planet.</p>
9/5/18	<p>As a 70 year old Illinois resident, I have seen wartime more than once. War is terrible; I do not wish another generation to participate or be forced to register. Please do not add women to registration. Please allow young men to register as conscientious objectors and while serving in medical or maintenance capacities to receive the same pay and benefits as other military personnel. I repeat: War is terrible. We should all be working for and putting resources towards peace. Thank you. Cynthia Breunlin [REDACTED]</p>
9/5/18	<p>Dear Commission:</p> <p>As a member of Physicians for Social Responsibility, I urge you to end required selective service (the Draft). And please do not require women to register. The draft, while quote 'equal' for all, did not work that way in the Viet Nam war. So many rich people could get around it, so again, the horrors of war, PTSD, injury, death fell, again, more on people of color & the poor.</p> <p>I worry that having so many men & women available for cannon fodder, will continue to make our political decisions militant, rather than searching for a just peace.</p> <p>And no matter what, we must always allow the wonderful, age old choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>If it is decided that registration is a must, and there must be non-military service, we should make its pay & benefits equal to those of military 'service'.</p> <p>THANK YOU for your attention.</p>

9/5/18	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>Please consider these options for future drafts.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. End required selective service (draft) registration for men.2. Do not begin requiring that women register.3. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.4. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service." <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Judy Bluhm</p>
9/5/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. End required selective service (draft) registration for men.2. Do not begin requiring that women register.3. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.4. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."

9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men.</p> <p>Do not begin requiring that women register.</p> <p>If Selective Service is not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Leslie Platto</p> <p>Walnut Creek, CA</p>
9/5/18	<p>It's time to end something that hasn't been used in a really long time.</p> <p>Don't require anyone to be involved. If you must have service, make it national service, make it last 2 years and make it include every healthy 18 year old in the nation.</p>
9/5/18	<p>To whom it may concern</p> <p>I would personally like to the see the Selective Service or "Draft" limited or completely abolished altogether.</p> <p>Limited would be 1. Not to require women to register 2. Choice of registering as a conscientious objector 3.If there must be a non-military service make the benefits equal to those of military service.</p>

9/5/18	<p>Please end required selective service registration for men.</p> <p>Also please do not begin requiring that women register.</p> <p>If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, please make sure that it is pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	<p>Greetings,</p> <p>Thank you so much for your time and reflection. I wanted to submit the following suggestions for consideration.</p> <p>Please consider adding to national service registration these additional registration options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) registering as a conscientious objector;(2) registering as an employee of a non-governmental unarmed civilian protection group;(3) registering as a nonviolent public servant. <p>Thank you once again!</p>

	<p>Charles Johnson</p>
9/5/18	<p>Dear Commission:</p> <p>Please consider the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. End required selective service (draft) registration for men.2. Do not begin requiring that women register.3. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.4. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service." <p>Thank you for your attention,</p> <p>Maxine Weaver</p>

	Deerfield Beach, FL [REDACTED]
9/5/18	1. End required selective service (draft) registration for ALL! NO MORE WAR!!!!
9/5/18	1. End required selective service (draft) registration for men. 2. Do not begin requiring that women register. 3. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. 4. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	I think selective service is very outdated and should be discontinued for a lot of reasons. One is we are being forced into doing something when everyone claims America is a "free country".
9/5/18	Mandatory Service should not be required. Alot of people are currently joining the military. Why force people to do something they dont want to? Preformance is usually low when an individual does not want to do something there being forced to do.
9/5/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."

9/5/18	We sincerely ask that you don not begin requiring that women register.
9/5/18	My comments on Selective Service for the United States: 1. End required selective service (draft) registration for men. 2. Do not begin requiring that women register. 3. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. 4. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service." Thank you, Roxanne Warren [REDACTED]
9/5/18	No one should have to join or be drafted if they DON"T want to go to defend another country .
9/5/18	The number 1 reason military enlistment is down is because of trump.....NO ONE WANTS TO SERVE A CORRUPT AND TREASONOUS COMMANDER IN CHIEF!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
9/5/18	We will never achieve peace if our society continues to drive young people into immoral contracts with military service. We will not act peacefully with constant preening for war, nor can we afford it in any sense.
9/5/18	To be brief: Please end required selective service (draft) registration for men and do not begin requiring that women register. If required selective service, that is the draft, is not ended, please continue to allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. Also, if non-military service is required, please ensure that non-military service pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military observance. Thank you for your attention.
9/5/18	Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	The military draft or draft contingency is a necessary component of U.S. national security. In particular, all young relatives of serving Congressional representatives (both House and Senate) should be required to serve for at least a year in the lowest ranking military service units.
9/5/18	There should be a paid national service requirement of all citizens for 2 years, following the completion of their education (high school, college, graduate school). The military could be one of the choices if they choose that route. Other choices should be in places that will be continued learning experiences and helpful to the nation in whatever field the candidate chooses: environmental, educational, social services, nutritional, medical, etc.
9/5/18	EVERYONE ON GRADUATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL SHOULD BE ENTERED INTO THE MILITARY SERVICE OF THEIR OWN CHOICE. LET IT BE MANDATORY SERVICE.
9/5/18	Service to others, the attempt to make their lives better through personal sacrifice has value; taking lives, disrupting lives in horrific fashion, does not. The draft is an unconstitutional breach of a citizens basic human rights. We should not be forced to fight and kill at the behest of others.

9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service".</p>
9/5/18	<p>1- Eliminate requirement of Draft</p>
9/5/18	<p>1. End required selective service (draft) registration for men. 2. Do not begin requiring that women register. 3. If you will not end mandatory registration, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. 4. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	<p>Thank you for NOT ENGAGING WOMEN IN WAR ALLOWING VOLUNTEERING, NO MANDATORY DRAFT. DECREASE A MILITARY BUDGET OUT OF CONTROL GET OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS TO RECRUIT STOP LYING TO ENLISTEES!! TAKE CARE OF VETS AFTER YOU HAVE DESTROYED THEIR LIVES WITH LIES</p>
9/5/18	<p>Abolish draft registration for the following reasons: it is sex discrimination against men; its real purpose is not for national security but for getting us into a pointless large shooting war that would involve lots of personnel; etc.</p>
9/5/18	<p>I think everyone should do 1 year of service whether it is military or Peace Corp or another service organization. It builds character and broadens the individuals outlook benefits that will last a lifetime.</p>
9/5/18	<p>Abolish the draft including selective service registration. Treat the military as another job or career choice available to citizens.</p>

9/5/18	<p>To increase the desire for Americans to serve...</p> <p>I have two proposals:</p> <p>1) Please end required selective service (draft) registration for all people: For women and men. Also, to that end, please make it only voluntary. Strength in numbers in the military and in military spending prove that there are enough or more than enough people that want to be in the military.</p> <p>Military drafting was created in the event that not enough people would want to volunteer, and maybe there was a need for it many years ago. But, these are different times.</p> <p>We have enough people that want to be in the military if not more so. Besides, young people never liked being drafted to begin with: With the exception being if they already wanted to be in the military to begin, with growing up or something very similar there.</p> <p>2) If there must be non-military service in the military, make sure that pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military service.</p>
9/5/18	Cease the draft. No more war. No more hate.
9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men.</p> <p>Do not begin requiring that women register.</p> <p>If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	Mandatory public service is not desirable in a society so totally controlled by corporate and money interests. Service for the public good such as health, education and social welfare is desirable if the society returns to democracy. Abolish selective service that serves corporate imperialism such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen et al but never national defense.
9/5/18	<p>Please read all of my suggestions, thank you.</p> <p>1. End required selective service (draft) registration for men.</p> <p>2. Do not begin requiring that women register.</p> <p>3. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>4. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	Defending our country is so important but how/when is equally needed ...
9/5/18	You say it is the good cause that hallows even war? I say unto you: it is the good war that hallows any cause. Friedrich Nietzsche

9/5/18	Please end required selective service (draft) registration for men, and do not begin requiring that women register. If registration cannot be ended, at least allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If the alternative is non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	I do not believe there should be required selective service (draft) registration for men or women. If the draft is not ended, there must be a choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It does produce anything of value. 2. You can't-let the white men fight their own wars. 3. The nation is the! barrier. 4. It cannot do anything to increase participation especially considering the nation will throw you under the bus! 5. Get rid of it! 6. Once again, get rid of it. 7. No, no, and no!
9/5/18	Military service should not be Mandatory and especially not for women.
9/5/18	I'd rather not have any draft, but if the draft is deemed necessary, I think women should be included, and provision made for conscientious objectors.
9/5/18	The Selective Service needs to be transformed into an Elective Service so that opportunities for people to serve our country in a non-violent, compassionate way are able to be made available. Those who conscientiously are opposed to violence against all other human beings should never be required to enter military duty. A time of mandatory service should be required, but should never conflict with the citizen's fundamental beliefs. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.
9/5/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men, which is sexist and unnecessary. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	We should do away with the draft. Our nation has a military buildup that is larger than the next 10 countries with a military. We could using those funds for much better programs such as education, environmental concerns, etc. War is not the answer!

9/5/18	<p>I respectfully request the following:</p> <p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men.</p> <p>Do not begin requiring that women register.</p> <p>If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service.</p> <p>Thank you, Emily</p>
9/5/18	<p>At 64 I have considered myself a pacifist since my teens yet personally feel that a standing militia is an important part of our current system. A National Guard. A defensive force that would serve as a helpful arm in non-violent action when our nation is not being attacked. A force that stays in America and does not go abroad. A force consisting of volunteers although mandatory service after high school as a training ground is not unthinkable. There should be no draft or registration ,as we as citizens are already in the system and it should be recognized that persons can conscientiously object to wartime violence despite their religion or lack of religious outlook.</p>
9/5/18	<p>The US has never been transparent or forthright regarding the truth that war of aggression is sanctioned by the administration, but lies to the American public about the reasons for hostilities.</p> <p>The Administration also misrepresents it's intentions by hiding military expenses and therefore has lost the trust of many by devolving into a Deep State of secrecy and coverson.</p> <p>The Draft is just another deceptive and forced obligation to appease the powers that be in their m.o. for perpetual bloodletting and in no way reflect any sincere values of patriotism or the American spirit of freedom.</p> <p>If you vote for war, you should be the first to go!</p>
9/5/18	<p>I strongly believe that young men (or women) should NOT be required to serve in the military. I do feel service has value and that a well-designed and well-implemented system with options for peaceful national or public service for young people would be of great benefit, whether it were voluntary or mandatory (though I'd say voluntary would be preferable). Until such a system is in place, I think selective service should recognize conscientious objectors and should not force young people into the military. I also think national security requires top-level cybersecurity, and there are lots of bright young people who can, would, and should, serve in a technical capacity within the area of national security without having to go into one of the current branches of the military. Perhaps we need a new branch? Overall, I think if we had a system that better reflected the current political landscape and gave young people more options about how to contribute, they would be more excited and less resistant to doing so. Asking them to all become soldiers is backward-thinking.</p>

9/5/18	War, what is it good for? Nothing, except to make human being suffer incredible pain and/or death. There is no 'Them' and 'Us', only we. We are all on this Earth boat together. Let's act like it! Selective service? A washout.
9/5/18	I think you should allow and pay people to be conscientious objector in the military.
9/5/18	I believe that we need to return to a Draft, but make it apply to everyone, rich and poor, male and female. I believe that if everyone is obliged to serve, no exceptions, parents will think twice about going to war. The problem would be enforcing everyone, when the wealthy are accustomed to buy their way out. Shari Hirst
9/5/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	Please END required selective service (draft) registration for men and do NOT begin requiring that women register. If mandatory selective service registration is not ended, then allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at the very least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	National service can only be a legitimate policy if its goal is the realization of a more just nation and world. Until that time, no one should be forced to act against their conscience.
9/5/18	There will always be a need for national service. What must be optional is the personal choice to be adjudicated as a conscientious objector and the options of alternative service. US courts ruled in the 70's that sincerely held beliefs are the main criterion for CO status. This must be preserved in order for us to honor those who wish to serve their country in a nonviolent way.
9/5/18	Please seriously consider the following: 1. End required selective service (draft) registration for men. 2. Do not begin requiring that women register. 3. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. 4. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."

9/5/18	Abolish the draft! Allow men and women to make a choice to serve!
9/5/18	I hated the draft in my youth. Why? because it was used by our so called leaders to pursue a wholly unjust and unnecessary war in Vietnam. Plus there were a myriad of ways to avoid the draft if your parents had money and connections to get you deferred, BONE SPURS, anyone??!! I enlisted instead of waiting on the draft. Served a 20 year career in the US Navy, It was the best decision I ever made. I firmly believe we have lost something by not requiring every American citizen to serve at least 2years of some type of national service. WITH NO EXCEPTIONS!!!! There should be a variety of ways to serve so as to accommodate conscientious objections and for those with disabilities. Not all need to serve in the military combat units but can also serve in support functions for those forces. A new version of Americore, Peace Corp and other non-military ways to serve should be developed so that ALL can serve a two year obligation, with emphasis on serving in America not some far flung country around the world, but right here in America. GOD knows we have tons of work that can be done to help our country right here at home.
9/5/18	In response to question #6, I request the following modifications to the selective service system: 1) End required selective service (draft) registration for men. 2) Do not begin requiring that women register. 3) If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. 4) If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	I have been through too many wars, none of which I approved. Especially the Viet Nam war. FORCING people to fight in wars that DO NOT protect the USA is a fight for wealthy people & their interests in that particular country & who keep their own family out of harm's way. It is in essence slavery. Military should NEVER be forced on people. We only need a force here to watch for attacks & keep a check on unstable leaders. I believe there will never be a need for ground defense because some one, some time or other will just simply blow the world up. We ought to have learned these truths & should spend all money to make sure the world LIVES! Without the earth, where will the wealthy spend their hoard? NO WAR CAN SAVE THE EARTH; IT WILL ONLY DESTROY EVERYTHING IN IT'S PATH.
9/5/18	Being CANNON FODDER for the corporate interests is NOT patriotism.

9/5/18	<p>Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security?</p> <p>No.</p> <p>Are modifications to the selective service system needed?</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>The requirement for Congress to vote on declaration of war needs to be enforced as part of the selective service regulations.</p> <p>Presidential power to deploy special forces needs to be constrained by bi partisan congressional agreement.</p>
9/5/18	<p>I think it is only prudent to have potential service members pre-identified and pre-registered. We haven't had a necessary military action in 70 years -- but there is no reason to think that it might not be necessary in the future. If that time ever comes, we cannot afford to spend months trying to identify potential service members.</p> <p>Never mind making service attractive; it ought to be an obligation. And my personal experience during Viet Nam, is that the draft is a remarkably democratizing system of recruitment. There were many of us in uniform who likely would not have chosen to be part of that debacle: but a random lottery draft was the fairest way to fill the ranks. It would be even more fair if there were no deferments, except under individual, very extenuating circumstances. I think the modern "all volunteer" force is very dangerous: it both selects for people who have limited other employment opportunities; and it gives us a military force that has a vested interest in finding a mission for itself.</p> <p>And definitely YES: a mandatory national service obligation should be something that every citizen gets to share in as a rite of citizenship.</p> <p>Respectfully, Michael Conboy S.Deerfield, MA</p>
9/5/18	<p>There is no reason for "selective service" unless we are fighting an enemy nation within our own borders - and then, a draft would probably be unnecessary because of all the men and women who would voluntarily sign up. People have the right to register as conscientious objectors, and for any reason. Many people just plain hate war, and some religious groups such as Quakers are strictly pacifists. Finally, if there must be non-military service, those who are so engaged should be paid the same as those in actual military service.</p>
9/5/18	<p>Please end selective service registration for men.</p>

9/5/18	<p>ABOLISH THE DRAFT! No one should be forced to kill or be killed!</p>
9/5/18	<p>Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? Service may have differing meanings depending on the type of service. There are unfortunate times when military service is necessary such as during WWI and WWII. Public service during the great depression took the form of the Citizens Conservation Corp (CCC). The CCC works are one of the jewels of our Nation and may be found in many parks throughout the USA. Public work programs could again provide valuable improvements to our park infrastructures and teach life skills to the youth of America.</p> <p>How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? Young Americans who serve should have free education in trades or in higher education. Existing school loans should be forgiven.</p> <p>What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? Service barriers are low pay and lack of inclusiveness for all genders, races, and economic levels.</p> <p>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? Better pay and guarantees of inclusive policies.</p> <p>Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? No. Incentives will encourage volunteers without mandatory service requirements.</p> <p>Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Yes. The system is outdated and unnecessary.</p> <p>Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? Yes. All Americans regardless of education, economic, or physical status should serve for a minimum of 6 months in public service.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment. David T Roberts [REDACTED] Bellefonte, PA [REDACTED]</p>

9/5/18	There must be an effort to mitigate and remove our bases out of over 70 overseas countries. Our Military spending is depriving critical resources for our own country. This should be curtailed and transferred to rebuilding infrastructure, education and Medicare for all.
9/5/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. End required selective service (draft) registration for men. 2. Do not begin requiring that women register. 3. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. 4. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	There need to be alternatives to military service. While I do not support mandatory military for all--even male--citizens, I would not object to national service, which could include health-care education, the environment and other areas of REAL service (to fellow citizens)...
9/5/18	3- I don't want to die for a racist, sexist, bunch of ignorant people who are blood thirsty and kill each other over stupid things and have no respect for life. 4-Control the government and military and stop being morally corrupt. 5-It shouldn't be. 6-Yes. 7-No,no,no, it's totalitarian alarming, and should be abolished.
9/5/18	As a military brat, I've seen the US in action around the world. Our military is way over-bloated and is mostly a police force for large corporations. For starters it needs to be audited so we know how corrupt it has become as a vehicle for money laundering and pork. We must end the draft for both women and men as well as allowing the choice to register as a conscientious objector. Any non-military service should have pay/benefits equal to those in the service.
9/5/18	I would like to see required selective service registration for men ended, since all citizens are not regarded equally (i.e., those who come from a wealthier or better connected background have more opportunities to avoid military service than those who have fewer economic options). I am against requiring that women participate in selective service registration. If required selective service registration is not ended, then men and women should be allowed the choice to register as a conscientious objector. If non-military service is mandatory, then pay and benefits for that service should at least be equal to those who elect to serve in the military.
9/5/18	I do not think a national or state registration for the draft is necessary for the young men and women of this country any longer. We currently have an all-volunteer military that is working well. If there were to be a national disaster that required massive numbers of young men and women, I think there would be adequate volunteerism and if not, State voter ID would be the way to seek out eligible young power.
9/5/18	No one should be forced to participate in a draft. I remember how terrified my eldest brother was during the Viet Nam era. Even though he had a high number, it still weighed heavily on his mind. My father, who was a WWII veteran, had to go down to his college campus to reassure him. Given what my dad experienced, I doubt he would have wanted either of his sons to be forced to serve. When my father left the Army, he was a First Lieutenant. He had skills that made him valuable. I feel that ought to be emphasized over merely being drafted.
9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men.</p> <p>Do not begin requiring that women register.</p> <p>If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	One can argue both for and against a draft during a time of genuine national emergency (e.g.: World War II). A peacetime draft, however, is absolutely beyond the bounds of common sense. It is expensive for taxpayers and degrading for registrants.

9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men.</p> <p>Do not begin requiring that women register.</p> <p>If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	<p>At this time I don't think America needs the draft or draft registration. If there's a true emergency, Congress can change the laws or if that's not possible I think individuals will volunteer on their own.</p>
9/5/18	<p>Instead of guns, our military should be carrying shovels and relief supplies. Fight the effects of natural (and man made) disasters. NO MORE WARS.</p>
9/5/18	<p>I am strongly opposed to any form of military draft. No one should be forced to participate in war or preparing for war if they do not wish to do so, regardless of their reasons. If the military draft continues, then women should be excluded. There is too high an incidence of sexual assault in the military to force any woman to be put at risk. Additionally, anyone who wishes to do so must be allowed to register as a conscientious objector. The forms of service available to conscientious objectors must not be punitive and must carry salary and benefits equal to those of non-combat regular military service. In this country which is supposed to be the foremost bastion of personal freedom, our national defense must not depend on slave soldiers. The military draft, regardless of how draftees are compensated monetarily, is a form of slavery. The founding fathers intended that "the common defense" should take the form of a volunteer militia. That should still be the case today.</p>
9/5/18	<p>Service does have inherent value, but our government institutions appear so corrupt, young people don't see it as Service.</p> <p>Please end required selective service (draft) registration for men. It still has echoes of Vietnam.</p> <p>Do not begin requiring that women register.</p> <p>If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>Make non-military service a viable option. Make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military service.</p>
9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men.</p> <p>Do not begin requiring that women register.</p> <p>If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p> <p>The military should only be used if our nation is attacked. As General Smedley Butler said:</p> <p>There are only two things we should fight for. One is the defense of our homes and the other is the Bill of Rights. War for any other reason is simply a racket.</p> <p>So, we need to end the war machine of which 'selective service' is a part.</p>
9/5/18	<p>End the draft registration for men and woman. If not, allow for conscientious objections.</p>

9/5/18	We no longer need the draft registration or selective service. It is unreasonable and unnecessary to have a mandatory service requirement for all Americans.
9/5/18	<p>We have a federal government that no longer represents the people of the United States. Instead it represents the rich and the corporations, by Supreme Court edict, making up stuff about what the US Constitution means. The people know that there were no mega-corporations when the US Constitution was written and approved, nor were mega-corporations in the minds of the founding fathers and the writers of the US Constitution. The Supreme Court just made that stuff up.</p> <p>Now our military is used mostly to protect the wealth of the rich and of the mega-corporations, not to ensure our freedoms as the people of America. If the rich and the corporations want an army, let them man (and woman it). Do not use a draft to conscript us for causes from which the people will not benefit, and only the rich and the corporations will benefit.</p> <p>I agree with all of these points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. End required selective service (draft) registration for men. 2. Do not begin requiring that women register. 3. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. 4. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service." <p>Plus: Provide the benefits promised for military service to military families and veterans and veteran families. Stop this farce of promising benefits and then denying them. Pensions, health services, education, housing. Military people serve in good faith, but our government claims poverty when it comes to delivery.</p>
9/5/18	I do not believe that service should be mandatory and I am in favor of ending obligatory registration for service. On the other hand, I am in favor of encouraging young Americans to serve their country in non-military ways. I would like to see a national service that is devoted to peace-time needs: disaster aid, conservation of the environment and protection of wildlife, teaching and medical services in under-served areas, infrastructure, and the like. This service should be well paid (at least a living wage in the area of deployment) and the pay of those serving in the military should also be increased.
9/5/18	Freedom means the freedom to choose, and if one does not support militarism they should not be forced to register for a draft.
9/5/18	<p>I strongly urge that ALL deferments for Military Service end. If this is not to be, then we must:</p> <p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men.</p> <p>Do not begin requiring that women register.</p> <p>If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>

9/5/18	I believe that we should have a two year requirement to serve in some capacity for every 18 year old with no exemptions. Be it in the service or picking up trash off the side the road. Everyone serves in the capacity that best suits them.
9/5/18	Registration for Selective Service should be totally voluntary. Young men and women will choose to serve if it is financially beneficial. Young men and women also will voluntarily serve if they feel they can truly make a difference in their country and be a hero. Military service should come with a guarantee that if you serve in our injured that you and your family will be taken care of for the rest of your lives.
9/5/18	End the draft. If we are a free people, forced military service is contradictory. It is forced labor which by definition is slavery. US Army Retired.
9/5/18	When we the people of the USA have a legislative body, executive branch and judicial branch that are of the highest integrity then there will be no need for the draft. Right now it is at an all time low. The president is a mockery, The Supreme enables the largest most powerful to to with the unlimited amounts of money to coerce and influence elections and a legislative branch which bickers back and forth instead of doing their jobs I suppose the draft will be needed to protect these very elusive 1% who rule the country now. The draft was wrong in Vietnam and is wrong now. Eliminate the draft forever to force the return to ethical principles which is what are worth defending.
9/5/18	No draft.
9/5/18	We need service registration now more than ever in our Countries time of turmoil!
9/5/18	Mandatory national service makes sense for Switzerland and other countries that sincerely try to defend themselves against aggressors. But the USA faces no threats other than those we ourselves invent by meddling in other peoples' business. Instead of defending our borders, we have built a huge empire, with more than 900 bases around the world, on behalf of the international bankers, using the supreme war crime—aggression—as our primary tool. As long as we maintain this criminal empire, anyone who serves in our armed forces is a criminal. The idea of forcing people to join a criminal organization is disgusting and reprehensible. Any sane, decent person would pick up a gun and fight against those seeking to kidnap him or her for criminal purposes.
9/5/18	I firmly believe the standing system should be abolished and any further imposition of the system should be submitted to a national referendum on a case/by/case war/by war. It is time that the nation have a say in what has become endless war. Let the people decide if the proposed war is worthy of the nation's support. As it is now, should the draft be activated there would be Civil War as a significant segment of our population has become wise to, and weary of, wars for profit.
9/5/18	The value of the military draft is that it equalizes obligation over class and race and, like the public schools, it gives Americans an opportunity to learn to cooperate toward a common goal while learning to live in disparate harmony. We have lost a great deal of the tolerance and good will learned by 'the greatest generation" over the course of WW II. However the impossibility of reviving the draft lies in the changes that have evolved with regard to gender participation. An ungendered military is a step toward equality of the sexes, and I can't fault the women who choose a life of military service, but to draft all of us to such an obligation: No, absolutely not. This civilization depends on the nurturing, loving influence that women bring to the public discourse and to the business of raising a healthy citizenry, and I have seen what the military removes from even the males it teaches to kill without compunction. I reject the idea that killing large numbers of people in other countries solves problems; have found quite the opposite. A sustainable future must learn to make its way to peace without creating new enemies as we try to exterminate all the "bad guys." This is a primitive mindset that threatens to end human civilization. The Russian takeover of our last election demonstrates that we have entered a new cyberhell where

	our government can be overwhelmed without expensive nuclear hardware and rattatat arms, and where a "race" becomes difficult or impossible. Please let's wake up and find a new way to settle differences!
9/5/18	End required selective service registration for men. If selective service (draft) registration for men not ended, make service compulsory for all citizens over the age of 18 If selective service not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	Morrison Bonpasse [REDACTED] Newcastle, ME, [REDACTED]
9/5/18	The selective service requirements are outdated and do not lead to national security. We need to move out of "war" thinking and think about real ways of keeping the US secure. The world is very small today and nation states are organized in very different ways; even though there is still the threat of nuclear "war", conventional warfare will not be possible nor will military units be used as in the past. Strengthen the voluntary National Guard and the Coast Guard and let the outdated selective service die an unlamented death. Some nations have gone to a national year of service to the country which makes a whole more sense than having the threat of "draft" hanging over every young man (or woman). The GI bill was a good way of "rewarding" those who served and we need more educated people, not more soldiers and guns.
9/5/18	Please consider these actions: End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service." Thank you. Sandra L. Herndon

9/5/18	If you want to increase military participation, stop invading foreign lands. The military should be used for defense, and not for invasions of sovereign nations. Bring the troops home so they can defend us.
9/5/18	<p>There are many benefits to volunteering to be of service to our fellow human beings, "studies of physical benefits from helping others." (Julien, 2016). However, calling a young person to be in service before they have had the opportunity to enjoy some freedom to explore themselves may be a mistake. Additionally, service that benefits humanity is not an act that puts the volunteer in the way of causing physical or mental harm to others. Our military and secret "services," just like their counterparts all over the globe, have caused unbearable suffering and sent home physically and mentally wounded men to their families and communities with unhappy results.</p> <p>Invite us to serve a good cause that will build sustainable, resilient communities, restore our degraded environment, teach us improved communication and conflict resolution skills, draw out the unique talent with which every individual is gifted and nurture it to the benefit of all and that could be called service worth doing. Invite us to be part of eliminating "Want and Ignorance" (Dickens, Christmas Carol), and we will have no need to war.</p> <p>Freedom does not begin with compulsion and is not built from threats. The "pursuit of happiness" is not is not begun with acts of horror, or being reduced to an unthinking, killing machine. No compulsory service should be instituted. The primary ingredient to a voluntary enterprise should be a genuine respect and care for everyone involved i.e. the server, the served, and their descendants.</p>
9/5/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes. The military is useful for discipline and training for everyday life. It would also help to prevent the deployment of the same soldiers to be going to war. The military should be increased. 2. Food clothing and a chance to use the GI Bill to get an education and the possibility to get a home. Training for life . 3. Religious objection. Not including don't ask, don't tell. 4. Give special training for CIA< FBI and computer training for work after the military. 5. I believe that it is . We need as many people in the military as possible to defend the country and be ready to serve. 6. Yes . The rules should be changed to include draft for 3 years and enlist for 2. 7. Yes. The money could be spent for the security of this country.
9/5/18	In honor and memory of my late brother, Dennis Weeks, I request that the Selective Service draft be ended for men, that it never be started for women and that we work strongly towards a new model of national security in which war is not an option.
9/5/18	Public service is win-win, if applied to constructive ends. Let's wage peace, and make sure our efforts are put toward life-enhancing education and support. No enforced service, but a living wage to help young people become involved in building a more inclusive and caring world.

9/5/18	<p>I am a U.S. Army veteran. I served in uniform from 1969 through 1972. I fully support the idea that national service is a public good. I also support the idea that NO ONE who does not wish to serve in the military should be forced to do so.</p> <p>I know how it feels to have all of your major life choices determined by the military draft. While I chose to enlist and serve, the military draft limited my choices in many ways, both obvious and subtle. This need to end. Permanently.</p> <p>I urge you to adopt the following measures and rules in your system.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. End required selective service (draft) registration for men. 2. Do not begin requiring that women register. 3. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. 4. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men.</p> <p>Do not begin requiring that women register.</p> <p>If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	<p>If we are going to make young men register, then young women should also have to register. Both men and women should not have to register for military service; non-military public service should be an option if they have to register at all.</p>
9/5/18	<p>With the U.S. engaging in grim & unnecessary wars, any young person with other options will choose not to volunteer. Some will volunteer because of a family tradition of military service. Some will volunteer for financial help to get through college or to receive training they cannot otherwise access.</p> <p>There is much that unemployed or under-employed youth can do to serve their country. We are wasting their talents by not employing them in VISTA-type program that might train and educate them for the future -- as an alternative to military service, prison, or the rising number of poor and homeless.</p>
9/5/18	<p>Compulsory military service should be abolished period. People should get to decide whether or not they choose to serve. Further, there should be options for civic service rather than military at the same time. Finally, if someone doesn't want to serve then this should be an option as well.</p>
9/5/18	<p>End the Draft registration system. Thank you!</p>
9/5/18	<p>i do not believe the government should decide who serves it is up to the individual to decide for himself</p>

9/5/18	<p>As a member of a multi-generation military family, I fully support and am grateful for the people who serve our nation in military service. I also support the rights of our citizens to be welcomed to military serve, to serve at will, and to make conscious choices regarding service as best represents their personal beliefs.</p> <p>I recommend that we make the following changes in our current military service policy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Offer each person the respect they deserve, and do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status 2. End required selective service registration for men. 3. Do not begin requiring that women register. 4. If selective service registration continues, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. 5. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service." 6. In times of peace, harness our military personnel to serve the needs of our citizens here at home, through public service. <p>With respect and appreciation for your consideration Kylie Loynd</p>
9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military service.</p>
9/5/18	<p>Service is a valuable component of any life, but not military service. There are more and more people who are permanently wounded and disabled, not just physically, but emotionally and psychologically by military service. No one should be required to do that kind of service. As we move into the future, there will be more and more people who need assistance, for such things as housing, health care, child care, education, physical mobility, etc. More and more disasters will occur due to climate change, and we will need more and more people trained to assist in these types of disasters. If the decision of a mandatory service requirement is made, each person can choose what kind of service they want to do. The point is, let's not require people to be trained to kill people, but to save, rescue and assist people in living. And while doing service, these people need to be paid well, not be paid mere subsistence wages. Let's put the money set aside for the military into actual good work, good training, good preparation for living well and survival of our species, NOT into more arms development and killing machines that lead us into nothing but more suffering. Yes, our national security is important, but not just the kind which offends and attacks other nations, or defends our own. Let's improve national security by improving our negotiating skills, our intentions for assisting other countries, not trying to beat them down and destroying them. Everyone benefits from providing some kind of service to others. My point is that we need to do that service in a positive way, toward improving the world, rather than destroying it.</p>
9/5/18	<p>I am writing today to ask that you end selective service for men and not require women to register because it is unnecessary to draft people into the military because of our relatively peaceful world which does not require a full standing military. If you should decide not to end the draft, you must allow people to register as conscientious objectors if they do not believe war is the answer to the problems of our world. Should non-military service be introduced, the people who are enlisted in any such programs must have pay and benefits equivalent to what military regulars receive.</p>

9/5/18	<p>Military service has more than inherent value. It has, and continues to be, the single best arbiter of the transition from boys to men. The camaraderie between disparate folks from all walks of life that is formed as a part of military service is precious and, in general, cannot be matched in any civilian endeavor I know of. Generally there are no barriers to public service of any kind save the inability to measure up intellectually to the minimum requirements.</p> <p>The skills needed for a modern military are more advanced than previous times, but they are not so onerous that they are a bar to service. Increased pay in accordance with comparable civilian jobs would be a big step toward enlisting and keeping the skills necessary. The force nowadays is all volunteer and it will continue to be for the near future as the military pays it's personnel and trains them to be valuable components in the pride and camaraderie I mentioned. I don't think the draft is necessary these days, but of course, can always be reinstated if necessary. In the draft system there were inconsistencies and favoritism that allowed certain folks to opt out of service for no good reason. Those persons were looked upon unfavorably and were considered cowards by all who knew them. To the extent that these are inequities are addressed the system is, in general, OK for the most part. Today's pool of eligible men and women are, for many reasons, different and differently minded than those of my day, but the desire to serve their country still burns bright for the most part. If in the future we find those differences don't match the system we have, we can, and should, create a more fair or desirable system of selection.</p> <p>In short, I have found people serve our country as a point of profound pride and as a means of belonging to a force for good in this world where forces for bad are in abundance. It has changed people into adults who are now more ready and capable to be valuable citizens.</p> <p>We MUST follow and insure that their paths and worthwhile after service are honored and rewarded in whatever ways a grateful nation can muster. This last point has been severely lacking in today's Trump administration and we MUST NEVER let this happen again to our country if we are to attract and retain the forces we need. A distinct and authentic sense of value and worth are what attract and keep anyone in any position and that goes doubly for our military where anyone must expect to give his or her all for their country.</p>
9/5/18	<p>My father was a WWII Air Force Pilot, who after a long career serving his country for most of his life turned against the war machine in these United States.</p> <p>I was a US Peace Corps Volunteer.</p> <p>We should have universal service. We need a military for defensive purposes. We also need to begin educating our citizens about the fact that democracy is not a gift, it is a responsibility. All of our youth need, must, serve our country. Universal service would only benefit the individual, the country, and all our citizens. Yes, male and female. And yes, equal pay for all.</p>

9/5/18	<p>I am a promoter of peace and feel that our world will be destroyed if we continue the mindset of war. Therefore, please end the required selective service (draft) registration for men. Further we should not even think about requiring women to register.</p> <p>However, if the draft is not ended, then at least allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Tahera Mamdani Fridley MN</p>
9/5/18	<p>The only reason they want the draft is for fodder to feed the machine, to protect globalization and intervention around the world, and to police and push USA hegemony upon the world, know matter what. This is less about security than control and power over, keeping others in their proper place, according to the elite.</p>
9/5/18	<p>Please do not require men to register. Do not require women to start registering either. Allow for conscientious objector status. We need to solve all problems peacefully.</p>
9/5/18	<p>I turned 18 in 1969 during the height of the Vietnam War. Even though my "lottery" number was too high to be called, I volunteered To serve as a conscientious objector through my church's program, Brethern Voluntary Service. Any compulsive draft must have this possibility for those of us that refuse to take up arms against another human being.</p>
9/5/18	<p>Personally I think the selective service registration should continue...for both male and female US citizens...and that it also provides for uniformed and non-uniformed service to the United States when needed.</p>
9/5/18	<p>Choosing to serve the American military should a be a voluntarily decision, and not a requirement to demonstrate loyalty to this country.</p>

9/5/18	<p>1. Service to one's country does have inherent value but there must be a choice involved concerning how to serve one's country. I believe President Kennedy's programs of the Peace Corps and Vista Volunteers were great examples of service. New programs oriented to serving the disenfranchised in the US should be an active alternative for anyone who chooses not to support war efforts. Also, similar to Roosevelt's CCC and WPA programs, there should be active programs for supporting our infrastructure and parks, etc. as an alternative service to war or supporting militarism. The funding of such programs must come from corporation taxes, companies in the US who avoid hiring US citizens; who hoard money in places like the Cayman Islands; the military budget and from taxes on the wealthiest citizens in the US.</p> <p>2. Inspire them with great leaders. Incentivise them with great ideas and include stipends like forgiveness of school loan debts and funding for college/training school funds.</p> <p>3. War is evil, everyone knows it, especially our service men and women. People no longer want to participate in wars fought to enrich corporations, secure trade hegemony or wealthy people's interests. America's dishonesty about our participation in wars and the lies told through propaganda campaigns are the greatest barrier to aligning oneself with government activities.</p> <p>4. Be honest about the complexity of the reasons for US involvement. Stop lying to the American people. Don't dehumanize the enemy. Be honest about the human toll of war and the civilian death counts. Don't use euphemisms like "collateral damage." Cut out the propaganda. Offer alternatives in the military to killing. Use the military for more humanitarian service and missions.</p> <p>5. No. The draft must permanently be abolished. Any compulsion used to enlist people against their will is an inherent violation of free speech and one's right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Criminalizing people who refuse the draft is fascism.</p> <p>6. Yes. We should reinstate the box on one's draft registration that allows them to identify as a conscientious objector (CO) and respect those decisions. Also, military recruiters should not be given the names of high school students unless the students choose to solicit them.</p> <p>7. No. Most of us already by defacto, support all government actions implicitly by our taxes. It is even more unfair to require our blood and lineage in causes we do not support. If America's leaders can't inspire service among our young people through honest talk, there is a problem with American leadership, not the people themselves.</p>
9/5/18	<p>Service, whether military, national or public, has the benefit of providing all Americans with a shared experience. (See Israel for an example.) This shared experience used to be provided by public education. That, sadly, is no longer true. Service should be mandatory for all with no exceptions. This eliminates the need for increasing desire to serve. There are no barriers to participation in a mandatory system. Increase participation of those not made to serve with money; pay people for their skills and they will come. The draft is necessary and valuable. Whether or not it is feasible will be determined by the leadership of this country persuading the citizens that service to country is a shared responsibility.</p>
9/5/18	<p>End required selective service registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>

9/5/18	<p>I support abolishing registration of either males or females for the military draft.</p> <p>If the draft is not abolished, I would expect that "conscientious objector" must be an option.</p> <p>In the case of a draft, there must also be an option for non-military service which would have the exact same pay and benefits as the military provides. I feel that although national service (non-military) would have multiple benefits, However, I doubt that we are currently equipped to establish such a program in a meaningful and effective way. However, expanding the Peace Corps and domestic versions of that would be a great benefit both the the US through improvement in international relations (Peace Corps), and probable reduction of poverty in some of the most economically depressed areas of the country. However, in order for such a program to be effective, we must be willing to support participants with a livable wage, benefits including health insurance and retirement, and on the job support to make their efforts effective and sustainable. Are we willing to do that as a nation?</p>
9/5/18	<p>Eliminate the entire system as unnecessary in this world. Pay members of the military or participants in national service a living wage and it will be a viable option for youth entering the work force.</p>
9/5/18	<p>We support ending all selective service registrations. We support the concept that all 18-year-old able-bodied people in the United States provide 2 years of service to the country through helping with non-essential hospital care, cleaning up abandoned lots, volunteering in children's programs such as Big Brother, Big Sister, maintaining the national parks, and helping senior citizens manage.</p>
9/5/18	<p>No f-ing way!!</p>
9/5/18	<p>Who in their right mind would sacrifice their life for this piece of shit country????? We are witnessing the demolition of our democracy as it is bought and sold by the trump crime family, corporate america, CEO's, the koch brothers, and various other millionaire and billionaire families!!!!!!! What an outrage and disgrace!!!!!!! So NO!, we DO NOT need a military draft especially since trump has already committed TREASON among other IMPEACHABLE offenses!!!!!!! IMPEACH the TREASONOUS trump crime family IMMEDIATELY!!!!!!! DON THE CON!!!!!!! LOCK HIS CROOKED ASS UP!!!!!!! Sad, no amount of DIRTY or STOLEN money buys BRAINS or CLASS!!!!!!!</p>
9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men.</p> <p>Do not begin requiring that women register.</p> <p>If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	<p>As a veteran, I ask you please to end the mandatory draft restoration for mem</p>
9/5/18	<p>Young people need to look at their future. I would focus on a recruitment program that includes a one or two year period of service to our country, with a free education or vocational component at their completion.</p>

9/5/18	<p>War is not something to prepare for. Instead, we ought to create a society that is so valuable to the rest of the world that they would have no interest in disturbing it. With this in mind, there should be an end to selective service registration for all males in the USA and we should put our resources into constructive building rather than dedicating resources to destruction of life.</p> <p>Along the lines of the above reasoning, it would be foolish to expand selective service to include women.</p> <p>If selective service were to continue and/or be expanded to include women, then all registrants would need a clear choice to indicate their conscientious objection status since war is immoral.</p>
9/5/18	<p>Don't require women to register. Let people register as conscientious objectors.</p>
9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	<p>War is NOT the answer! Remember the old Youngbloods song "Get Together"? Here's the chorus: C'mon people, now, smile on your brother Everybody get together, try to love one another right now!</p>
9/5/18	<p>As a veteran who was drafted in November of 1969 I know the prejudice and the inequity of the Selective Service. Even back then if you were lucky enough to have parents who KNEW someone on e draft board or had enough money to BUY a deferment you were home free. If this nation ever has the need for a draft then let it be start with anyone male and female from the age of 35 down be the first to go and base it on birth date. And no one unless mentally incapable to perform even menial tasks be exempt. Then when these are used up for cannon fodder then start a 12 month active and a 24 month active reserve status mandatory for all upon graduation of high school or dropping out of high school. Any missed training results in returning to active duty for the remainder of their 4 year commitment NO EXCEPTIONS for any reasons</p>
9/5/18	<p>Please consider ending the draft registration program, don't include women if you do continue it. Allow for conscientious objectors</p>
9/5/18	<p>Is the U.S. planning to incite a war? If so, think carefully about public opinion and wasting our youth to such folly. You must not leverage politics for personal political gain.</p>
9/5/18	<p>There is no good war There is no JUST war There is no bad PEACE Conscientious objector.</p>


9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	<p>As a supporter of World BEYOND War, I submit the following proposals for the Commission's consideration</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. End required selective service (draft) registration for men. 2. Do not begin requiring that women register. 3. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. 4. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service." <p>Sincerely yours, Br. Jonathan Maury, SSJE (Society of Saint John the Evangelist monastery [Episcopal])</p>
9/5/18	<p>The draft is wrong because it coerces otherwise decent people into becoming killers. The military drives out personal conscience and replaces it with unthinking obedience. Registration should therefore be abolished.</p>
9/5/18	<p>Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? 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? Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? So End Registration!</p>
9/5/18	<p>I think that Congress would be MUCH more CONSERVATIVE, about declaring any "conflict", if their OWN family members were. permanently placed at the HEAD, of Draft Registration lists. Until now, it has been the Smiths, and the Jones, who have given their lives, for America, while Congress cries "Fight, Fight, Fight!", from the safety of having their own families thousands of miles away from the conflict. If Washington D.C. wants to keep draft registration "alive", then their OWN families MUST be, permanently, at the HEAD of the induction list. Politicians families would have to report, for conflicts, followed by the Smiths and Jones. NO deferments, or any other excuses. Anytime WASHINGTON D.C. wants to declare any "HOSTILITIES", the price will be their OWN families lives, "sacrificed", FIRST! Lets see how long Washington D.C. wants to support continuing draft registration (Selective Service).</p>
9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men & do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. And if there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>

9/5/18	Stop registering young men for the draft. If you continue registering men then women should be registered also. If you registering for the draft there needs to be a place for conscientious objectors service and that their service be recognized as equal to registering as a combatant.
9/5/18	End the draft forever. In the hands of a President who may be unstable, who may risk the lives of the men and women in the service over an ill-thought, dubious, or even treasonous situation, it could be disastrous for our country.
9/5/18	My name is Angela Jensen I think that you should reconsider keeping the draft it should be voluntary. Not Mandatory to join and as a woman I disagree with adding them to the draft. If either want to join the military it should be by choice. Not because their number is called if this is in fact a free country. Then remove the draft for men and soon to be women. From joining the armed forces. Because it goes against our constitutional rights. And our freedom to choose. By keeping it in place make it their decision instead. Remove the military draft.
9/5/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service." Set an example for the nation by accepting fully all transgender people who wish to proudly serve their country.
9/5/18	In a so-called "democracy", FORCED conscription has NO place. Every war America has had in this century is a pointless, senseless, endless boondoggle that only enriches the CEO's of military and arms corporations. NO WAY should a citizen be FORCED to participate in these immoral and disgusting abominations. End required selective service (draft) registration for men and do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service" and make sure these "services" are for the betterment of the country - like fighting poverty, doing environmental rehabilitation work, etc.

9/5/18	<p>I urge the following actions:</p> <p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men.</p> <p>Do not begin requiring that women register.</p> <p>If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	<p>I do not believe that it is in the interest of the United States for there to be a mandatory service requirement nor that a military draft is a necessary component of our national security. I continue to be in favor of voluntary military service for those who wish to serve in the armed forces.</p>

9/5/18	<p>I have family who currently serve and others who previously served. I believe we must have a strong defensive military, but more importantly, one that can function in many different capacities and situations. There are many jobs one can do where conscientious objection to combat can be taken into account. I think our youth should ALL be required to serve either within their community or as part of various operations such as recent disaster relief in Texas, Puerto Rico, or on a worldwide scale. This service can be compensated as part of the service member's current compensation, as well as building their retirement.</p> <p>Fostering peace, community participation and strengthening democracy worldwide, requires both a "live and let live" philosophy, but also a humanitarian one. We cannot allow dictators, fascist or brutal power-hungry demagogues to murder innocents or engage in ethnic cleansing.</p> <p>The expansion of broadband internet must be allowed to globally reach as many of the remote parts of the world in order to further connect us to the larger world and to also expose and prevent those who engage in brutality, to prevent future terrorists and oppressive regimes from imposing their will on the marginalized.</p> <p>Climate change and the resulting migration of humans must also be immediately dealt with through comprehensive policies for prevention, regulation and elimination of pollution in all its forms, and can be handled by the various designated branches of the military as part of community-based, specific programs. Building infrastructure such as plumbing, electricity via green, renewable power sources and new housing structures would assist and transform worldwide poverty. Cleaning up the environmental waste and plastic in the oceans and other toxic areas requires equipment that our military budget can target and handle. It also requires working with those corporations who continue to pollute. Fines, prevention and enforcement of cleanup requirements can be overseen by the military and ngo's as well, through cooperative participation.</p> <p>Our citizens should ALL be required to provide some type of service that would also be compensated. Even the disabled and the elderly, to the extent that they are capable, can contribute to making our communities, our country and our world a better place. The monetary compensation would create an economic engine that would improve lives and provide an incentive for positive participation by each member. Each individual's skills, talents and strengths can contribute to the overall wellbeing of our world to promote and attain peace, prosperity and wellness for everyone. The purpose of our military would not be to just police, promote or engage in war, but to engage in diplomacy, peace and building a worldwide community of cooperation, participation and prosperity for all. I'm reminded of John F Kennedy's statement, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."</p>
9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>

9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (the draft) registration for men. I do not want my sons subjected to war. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	<p>The value of service to this country is being cheapened at this point by our commander in chief. This administration has made joining any branch of service a scary proposition. Immigrants, regardless of u.s. citizenship, are being denied benefits, lgbt recruits are not welcome. The president disrespects the entire service community including the joint chiefs of staff and the military intelligence. There is much that could be done to make the service more attractive option to young people but it will not happen under this administration. Sadly, this president seeks to put us at odds with the rest of the world including former allies . He expects our country to be defended by armed forces who now question what they are defending and where do the loyalties of their Commander in Chief actually lie.</p>
9/5/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) End required selective service (draft) registration for men. 2) Do not begin requiring that women register. 3) If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. 4) If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	<p>A period of service to their country if participated by all young people, not just the poor or the militant, can be useful to all concerned. I write to urge that if a draft of temporary service is required of young residents of the U.S., that they be offered the alternate choices of conscientious objection to military service, in the form of general service to the needy in the U.S. (children, the elderly, the sick or disabled) at pay equal to that paid to those doing military service.</p> <p>Many young men and now young women as well have had their minds, bodies, and spirit permanently damaged by being trained to kill and destroy, in the name of "war" concocted by the military industrial complex president of which Eisenhower warned us.</p>
9/5/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No. 2. Currently it seems to rely heavily on xenophobia, misrepresentation of US foreign policy, and promises of support to veterans it fails to meet. 3. Discrimination based on gender identity, sexuality, race, national origin, religion, and income. 4. The military has cast itself as a dishonorable partner recently by abruptly removing from service immigrants who have risked their lives in defence of this country. If incentives such as a fast track to citizenship for non-citizens, educational opportunities, or quality healthcare are offered, they must actually be provided, regardless of the whims of a petty and racist administration. 5. No. End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. 6. Yes. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. 7. A civil service requirement would be endlessly more valuable than a military one, but if there must be non-military service, its pay and benefits must be at least equal to those of military service.

9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	<p>End required selective service registration for men, and do not impose this requirement upon women.</p>
9/5/18	<p>As a recognized scholar of the principles and practices that underlie sustainable peace and reconciliation, I can attest to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We would have never initiated that tragic war on Iraq if we had had to draft an army to do it. The public protests would have been deafening. 2. We must talk about fair wages and benefits for anyone who is drafted. 3. We must allow for conscientious objectors to register as such and accept alternative non-military assignments. <p>Dr. William M. Timpson, Professor Fulbright Specialist/Scholar: Sustainable Peace and Reconciliation Studies School of Education Colorado State University Fort Collins, CO 80523 </p>
9/5/18	<p>I would like to see an end to required selective service (draft) registration for men. In addition women should not be required to register. If this practice cannot be ended, then the choice of registering as a conscientious objector should be allowed.</p> <p>If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	<p>I am a 89 yr old disabled veteran. I strongly approve of this message. Our use of military force since our invasion of Grenada has consistently been imperial and had nothing to do with national security. Quite the opposite: it has undermined our role as a Democracy; it has caused an increase in resistance forces; and a horrible number of killed and wounded civilians and troops as well as a waste of monetary and natural resources. IT has failed miserably except for those who profit from it.</p>
9/5/18	<p>If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p>

9/5/18	Public service is good. Military is not. We need to end our military heavy culture and focus on the common good. To that end I suggest, no more draft registration for men, or starting it for women.
9/5/18	Hello, I am writing today to ask that you end required selective service (draft) registration for men. Also, please do not begin requiring that women register. Finally, if there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service." Thank you for your time.
9/5/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	I believe that selective service registration as we have it should be ended. If it is not stopped, it should be modified. There should be a non-military service that people can choose, and the pay and benefits should be equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	1. Yes, it teaches discipline and achieving goals. 2. The US foreign policy strongly discourages military service. Look we are the world bully pushing weaker countries around for our corporate overlords. Before you discount me remember Major General Smedley Butler way back in 1912 said as much. President Eisenhower also warned us against the influence of the military industrial complex. I would never recommend military service for these reasons. 3. See # 2 4. Easy fix the problems noted in answer # 2 5. No we should abolish the selective service. 6. If we do not abolish it, we should not start registering women and there should be an option for those who object for moral reasons, basically a conscientious objector clause that would null the registration. If this is not possible then an alternative should be proposed (similar to Europe or Israel) whereby you can serve in a non-military role with similar pay and benefits. 7. No, No, No.
9/5/18	I do not believe in the draft. I recall what happened to all of those young people in Vietnam. I also do not trust Trump as he is too impulsive and can start a war at any moment. he needs to be impeached and congress needs to remove his was powers. someone has to take charge!!! of this country. The person in office is not capable of leading anything!!!
9/5/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	As a former volunteer Air Force veteran, I feel that we no longer need the draft. Americans volunteer for the armed forces in times of national need in droves. Let the American people decide when to support war and peace efforts by our government.
9/5/18	The draft is not necessary and should be abolished, including ending required selective service (draft) registration. If it is not ended, the choice of registering as a conscientious objector must be available.

	And, if national service is to be implemented, non-military options MUST be available and the pay and benefits must be at least equal to those of military service.
9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service." Thank you for thee opportunity to share my thoughts. Jackie Warren Demijohn Addy, WA [REDACTED]</p>
9/5/18	Regarding Docket No. 05-2018-01: Your consideration of ways to improve participation in public service is good. The trouble is that I've never been a fan of mandatory military service. Not everyone is cut out for it. I could accept a requirement for some kind of public service. For example, you could try to recruit young people to work for the Park Service, housing or social services in capacities that might provide them job training and still help the public. I do believe, if you have this kind of requirement, it should apply to both sexes, and using college as a way to get out of service is not fair to people who either cannot afford it or who just don't qualify for university. But if you provided a variety of service types, and offered decent wages and living conditions, young people might be more interested in participation. I'm not entirely sure all this is "necessary," but it could be valuable and feasible. As for a draft, I only can see it if we are in an actual declared war. (Please don't try to draft people to be cannon fodder for these undeclared wars we keep fighting overseas.)
9/5/18	<p>My thoughts are s follows: END required selective service draft registration for men, and DO NOT begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service".</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
9/5/18	<p>My requests are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	It is time for a new paradigm! Military might is too costly in both dollars and human life. It is time for broader global visions, a world where political unrest is a thing of the past, where basic needs are met and individuality is protected while society is enriched and made stronger. This is not an impossible dream, but rather the future reality we should not be impeding with threats of violence and weapons of mass destruction. Perhaps we can construct a "force" for peace and nonviolent conflict resolution.

9/5/18	Be more open to conscientious objection and provide alternative service options, such as the Peace Corps, Environmental Corps. Get the emphasis of national service off war. All in national service should receive the same benefits after service.
9/5/18	Now that we have a maniac in the White House who is apt to declare war for any idiotic reason at any time, it is not fair for our young people to be forced to be killed on foreign soil to satisfy the disturbed ego of a would-be dictator who has NO regard for human life. People who go to war should do so for some sensible and stabilizing reasons, not be to be killed and kill others because of a madman's delusions. The draft is unnecessary and unreasonable at this point in history.
9/5/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	I am in favor of ending selective service for men, and not requiring women to sign up for it. Joining the military is a decision that one should be allowed to make for oneself, rather than having made by Congress. To fight in an army requires killing America's enemies, and I have long believed that we can accomplish more with words than with a weapon (and with so many countries possessing nuclear weaponry, that is likely to impact more than the headcount of any one nation's army). My comments apply especially under the current Presidential Administration, but I believe this should be the case regardless of who is in power.
9/5/18	My opinions relative to the draft come from a life that included a time of the draft when I was a young adult in the 1970's, when the U.S. was responsible for a "war" in Vietnam. The draft is something that is useful when/if the U.S. is in a state of true war (such as in World War II), that is, a Congress declared actual war, not in times of Executive branch use of our young men and women who serve in our military in episodes of what the Executive branch calls "war", but is not actual war, when their use is politically driven, not U.S. protection/service driven. Therefore, I do not feel that draft registration is currently appropriate, that is, not currently appropriate in our country, our country that is our beloved Democracy.
9/5/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men, and do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service." Put people into service rebuilding US infrastructure, and that of other countries, instead of bombing other countries to hell, making enemies incessantly.
9/5/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men, and do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service." Put people into service rebuilding US infrastructure, and that of other countries, instead of bombing other countries to hell, making enemies incessantly.

9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	<p>any future draft MUST include everybody, no exceptions for bone spurs, etc. An acceptable alternative would be The Peace Corps or something like it. This is only if there is a draft- I question the need for a draft in peacetime. I am a Vietnam vet and approve this message.</p>
9/5/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. End required selective service (draft) registration for men. 2. Do not begin requiring that women register. 3. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. 4. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	<p>The military draft is not needed and registration for selective service should be abolished. The US military forces can get enough volunteers by offering adequate pay and other benefits. Advertising the benefits of military service and continuing the campaign to recognize all service members as "heroes" will be enough to staff our military forces adequately. Mandatory service is not necessary and would be detrimental. Non-military public service should be encouraged more than it is now and more government funds should be used for this purpose. People who work in non-military public service are often more heroic than military people.</p>
9/5/18	<p>I think a well paid natilona service corps would appeal to many people</p>
9/5/18	<p>First off, I think that service today does not have the kind of value that it used to. I believe this because a large amount of people, especially young people, do not believe in the things the military and country is doing or being used for. I believe that young Americans, like myself, want to see peace and NOT more wars. The American people are sick of war. Service does not mean protecting your country and people and defending the constitution like it should, it means killing innocent people in a distant land for someone else's profit that ultimately puts Americans more at risk of things like blow back and terrorism. Second, I would like to say that if Americans believed in what the military was doing there would be more people willingly wanting to volunteer and serve their country, So, there should be no draft for ANYBODY(men or women!) because forcing someone to die for a rich mans profit is not constitutional and if people believed in the military and what it was doing then you wouldn't need to force anyone to volunteer. If it absolutely is not ended(which I strongly disagree with), allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. At least then people who disagree with what is happening should have more choice in what happens to them. And finally, if there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military service.</p>

9/5/18	Do not end the draft. Use it to make people from all classes of society aware of the military commitments that we make and share in the burden of them
9/5/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Please end required selective service (draft) registration for men. 2) Do not begin requiring that women register. 3) If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. 4) If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	<p>National Security is Paramount, nevertheless we as a nation should realize today that we are all in the same boat with other nations. The earth is now a neighborhood, it is not as big as it was before, and anything one does affects the other. Planning for catastrophic wars should be a thing of the past among nations. We should prepare to live as one big family of nations and defend all the world of pollution, global warming, disease, injustice, etc.</p> <p>Diplomacy and an end to economic, military and political bullying and provocations are the way. The USA should lead in this effort, and in today's world you will find the new generations of all countries, including ours, willing to serve their countries in sustainable and amicable relations around the world. Not only that, the money spent in war efforts and preparations would go a very long way investing diplomatically in peace and understanding with all nations of the world. We should not seek to ALWAYS have an enemy to fight with, all nations have common enemies, which don't include other humans, and we should fight them together, here is where many Americans would gladly serve, saving the planet and having peace for future generations. We should work on ending poverty, discrimination, racism, segregation, slavery, human trade, occupations, deforestation, water scarcity, erosion, all forms of contamination, disarmament, violence, disease, starvation, mental illness, etc. All these things kill more Americans than our "enemies", this is where most of our money should go.</p> <p>The day our resources and the world resources stop being misused and wasted, specially by war, the lives of every human on earth will improve, the time when the rich stop needing the poor to be rich, the time when no child on earth starves to death while we throw away tons of food leftovers from Las Vegas buffets, that will be a time of peace, and I am sure many Americans would be willing to serve our country proudly in this endeavor.</p> <p>Peace is National Security, we need to get along with ALL our neighbors on earth.</p> <p>I suggest the following: End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register.</p>

	<p>If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	<p>Stop ALL wars!!! If we spent 1/4 of the military budget on creating a peaceful planet, we could not only coexist with our brothers and sisters all around the planet, but feed & shelter everyone, as well, Wars have always been created to placate the wealthy plutocrats, who are the only ones that receive any positive benefits from them! THEY should be the ones on the front lines!!!! Thank you for listening!!!</p>
9/5/18	<p>Please we have four military academies; may we please have a peace academy. What an amazing idea: to educate women and men to create peace, not war.</p> <p>Sincerely, Maureen O'Connor</p>
9/5/18	<p>End selective service. War never brings peace. Stop making the military an option for our youth.</p>

9/5/18	The selective service needs to be ended. Use that effort to teach and to campaign for peace, and for people to work for the betterment of world citizens.
9/5/18	For many people who serve in the military actively, their lives are ruined. They can be ruined because of the physical injuries or the emotional injuries. For that reason, I am against forcing people to serve in the military unless our very shores are threatened. I would not like to see women forced to register either. If there is a necessity for a draft, I would like to see a category for conscientious objector with jobs they can do and receive reasonable compensation for serving in those jobs.
9/5/18	I am deeply opposed to any requirement that young people in the US register for military draft. Neither boys nor girls should be required to register for the draft. Kathleen Temple Rockingham, Virginia 22802
9/5/18	Please end Selective Service requirements for males and do not require females to register. If not ended, do include Conscientious Objector status.
9/5/18	NO MORE WARS!!!!!!!!!!!!
9/5/18	We object to mandatory service requirements as unconstitutional based on the prohibition of involuntary servitude. If a draft does continue, however, we believe there must be a right to declare oneself a conscientious objector, and if non-military service is required, that it receive equal compensation with military positions.
9/5/18	Abolish the draft as a large standing army is no longer necessary to protect this country. Better pay and benefits will attract enough individuals to serve. With regard to the latter, the VA and education grants should be greatly improved to provide first rate health care to veterans.
9/5/18	I think that service does have value. If people felt they had choices and were respected in those choices, and received something in return, I think there would be more participation. If non-military service offered equal pay and benefits to military service, I think more young people would choose to serve. We also must honor our commitment to people who have served, by providing the help and support they need. The requirement for men to register with the Selective Service should be ended, and we should not start requiring women to register. If registration continues to be required, there must be a choice to register as a conscientious objector. We need to avoid an attitude of coercing and using people in favor of an attitude of respect.
9/5/18	Here you go: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End required selective service registration for men. • Do not begin requiring that women register. • If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. • If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."

9/5/18

9/5/18

Hello and Shalom from Jerusalem, Israel.

My name is Hannah Porat, I am a 54 year old mother of 4 sons aged 26, 25, 23, and 14 and one daughter 19. Two of my four sons have served in the IDF here in Israel, one in Intelligence and one as an army social worker looking after the of ultra-orthodox voluntary recruits.

Since we have lived through numerous wars and intifadas (uprisings by the Palestinians) and have dealt all summer with the Hamas trying to breach the fence between Gaza and Israel and many people sending "fire kites" into Israeli farms and fields - my perspective is shaped by the reality on the ground here in Israel.

Nonetheless as a researcher in the field called HD or Human Development - I tend to agree with the assertion that a high quality moral-spiritual education together with economic growth and well paying jobs impact society powerfully in the direction of peace.

The entire Middle East suffers from mass male unemployment - in Cairo, Egypt each year 70,000 high school students graduate, but they don't necessarily have a great job waiting for the. In the PA administered territories in Yehudah and Shomron there are 300,000 Palestinian young men between 15 and 30 with neither work nor training. For every lo-paying police officer job (\$ 500 - 600) there are 200 - 300 applicants.

While in New York City, a 23 year old female Bates College graduate from Maine can immediately start working in banking at Citicorp Bank for a great pay, or an 22 year old German expat with programming skills got hired at Google with an annual contract for \$ 150,000..

The night and day difference between highly skilled people in well-paying and stimulating jobs and the unskilled laborers in a dead end track needs to be understood as a systemic problem, and training policies must be formulated to close the sharp social divide between the haves - "successful knowledge workers" - and the have-nots, the unskilled laborers and economic "losers" of today's post-industrial society where ONLY knowledge worth creates massive wealth in the future. The logical conclusion is then to invest massively in high quality skills training and systematic consciousness education that prepares young (and old) minds to finally make use of the 90% untapped brain power of humanity. To have people on top of NOT being developed properly need to go to battle with other even less developed humans, is a total anachronism - as intelligent policy channels destructive energies to peaceful purposes. This is the meaning of "swords to plowshares"!

And that is the challenge of this century and we here in Israel have developed Humanomics (sm) programs such as the Integration of Labor (sm) and Receiving to Give (sm) to address the challenge of making "better" people through better educational, training and labor market policies.

At your service,

Mrs. Hannah Porat

PR & Communications

Macrotech (sm)

Jerusalem - Israel



9/5/18	<p>Our government should not be selling WAR to children and youth through expensive displays of military ware as a means to recruitment, such as the Miramar Air Show in California. It's an irresponsible use of hard-earned taxpayer monies to glorify war and waste fuel, further damaging our earth for their future.</p> <p>End selective service registration, please. It is both a form of government intrusion as well as a perpetuation of a warfaring mindset. And if you won't end it, at least allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector -- WITHOUT any penalty whatsoever.</p> <p>If you desire increased participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with critical skills to address national security and other public service needs of the nation, then you should at least take care that their salaries and benefits are competitive -- and importantly, within your system, whistleblowers will NOT harrassed and punished if they reveal abuses of any nature.</p> <p>As long as there are veterans who are suffering from PTSD, physical injuries, joblessness, and homelessness and their needs are NOT being met by those who recruited them, then I think that is the biggest reason there ought not to be a selective service registration.</p>
9/5/18	end war and the need for people to register for it
9/5/18	<p>I highly recommend that you end required selective service (draft) registration for men and that you do not begin requiring that women register. If registration does not end, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. And if there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	<p>I support ending required selective service (draft) registration for men for the present time, until it should be needed again, and do not want to see women being required to register. If service registration is not ended, then registering as a conscientious objector must continue to be allowed. I do support both military and non-military service with both equal pay and benefits. I think having the options of both military and non- military service are a great way to serve our country and would give our citizens more options.</p>
9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>

9/5/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. End required selective service (draft) registration for men. 2. Do not begin requiring that women register. 3. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. 4. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military service.</p>
9/5/18	<p>A volunteer is always a better soldier than a draftee. Our society has devolved to the point that so many volunteers do not make the physical requirements, drafting from the general population would be detrimental for at least twofold reasons: wasting time deferring the obese, and dealing with the morale issues of a corps of a full spectrum of motivation, from bellicose to aspiring to a military career. Why weigh down the military like this? But there's a third detriment: the drag on the military, in toto, of the public's taxes being wasted on staff-hours to administrate excluding the unfit, physically or dispositionally, or dealing with fallout from it. The question of drafting women is moot: the same difficulties with obese and dispositionally inappropriate men is just as present with women.</p> <p>We need a professional, prepared, effective military. Maintaining egalitarianism and morale is key.</p>
9/5/18	<p>Voluntary service is far more palatable, as is an equivalent, non-military option (like Americorps or Peace Corps). Requiring women to register is not what I'd consider progress, though I certainly respect their right to enlist voluntarily.</p>
9/5/18	<p>Everyone serving/employed in the U.S. military, national and public service are guaranteed the exact healthcare benefits as the President and members of Congress without exception and under no circumstances can this be modified to provide anything less than what the President and Congress receives.</p>
9/5/18	<p>Please end the selective service draft.</p>
9/5/18	<p>War does not help. Violence breeds violence.</p>
9/5/18	<p>The draft is not necessary. In the event of war the change for mandatory sign up could and has happened. In any event if this country is attacked, I think we have seen that volunteers will be numerous. On the other hand, the declaration of a war needs to be better controlled and fact driven. History has shown our Presidents have taken the lives of many soldiers for political reasons. This should never be allowed to happen again.</p>
9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. If you do not end the draft, begin requiring that women register as well. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>

9/5/18	We should switch to mandatory voter registration, not mandatory registration for selective service. If the country decides to bring back the draft, let's make that choice as difficult as possible, so that all Americans are involved in the decision and the choice to go to war. These are not issues to be taken lightly, or made more expedient.
9/5/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. End required selective service (draft) registration. 2. Close ALL foreign military bases. 3. Bring ALL USA military personnel back home to the USA where they belong. 4. End ALL CIA operations except for intelligence gathering.
9/5/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Military service no. Should only be voluntary. 2, 3 and 4. Re-distribute spending, to offer more competitive pay package to servicemen/women. Lower spending on the industrial military complex and militarization of space. 5. Draft should not be mandatory / Conscientious objectors should be respected. 6. It should be ended. 7. No. But if there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	The Draft is an antiquated system that needs to be abolished. Our current administration is off the rails, and polling very low. In such a situation, our young people cannot be expected to step up and enforce the administrations policies with their lives and well-being. Since this happened once, it can happen again. Our government cannot be trusted, so I refuse to entrust my children and the children of this nation to their control.
9/5/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."

9/5/18	<p>Thank you for asking for public opinion!</p> <p>Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? Not as it is today.</p> <p>How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? Make it only about each person getting involved in projects that resolve national public concerns like poverty and homelessness. Sending people to war only brings them back (if they survive) with mental and or physical health problems. And if they kill someone they can be a less productive part of society- dealing with it through drugs, alcohol etc. War products can be converted to innovations that create rather than destroy.</p> <p>What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? The possibility of being killed in a war somewhere.</p> <p>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 above</p> <p>Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? Not at all. What will help our security most is everyone being able to travel and connect and live with everyone around the world. Again it should be a win-win situation for companies that are involved in the war system- They can easily make profits doing good towards their fellow human beings. And including the entire world means more money for them.</p> <p>Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Yes</p> <p>Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? No</p>
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9/5/18	<p>Service has inherent value in that it helps connect people to the communities they serve. It broadens personal perspectives and helps people see the world and its people as unique and valuable. While it is desirable for Americans to serve, I do not feel we do enough to make people aware of the opportunities, benefits and commitments of service. We do not sufficiently train people for service, and we don't do the affective work to help them value service. As for increasing participants with critical skills, financial incentives are, at best, partially effective: while student loan forgiveness programs can decrease the burden on those who choose to serve, working to increase the social status rewards of service -- particular among professionals -- may do more in the long term. As for the draft, given the long time it takes to produce service members who are well enough trained to be effective in the highly technological environments we face and will likely continue to face in future conflicts, it seems that a draft and the selective service system associated with it is likely to be a waste of future resources: these could be better used to recruit and train the professional warfighters we will need for the foreseeable future. That said, while a mandatory service requirement for all Americans would be valuable and could go a long way to fulfilling many necessary social services, I am unsure of the feasibility of instituting mandatory service for all Americans. Many people coming out of primary and secondary education are not fully prepared for college or vocational schools, and service programs could offer them opportunities to develop sufficient skills while they mature. Service programs could offer young Americans the opportunity to sample occupations they may never have considered, as was the case with me in my first enlistment in the Air Force: I had never previously thought about being an electronics technician. Certainly, service helped me adjust my idealistic notions of patriotic service to the realities of a rapidly changing society in which American youth seemed to serve for self-improvement more than to serve others. But the cost of preparing all the nation's youth for service may be economically prohibitive. Nonetheless, the value of service that makes the cost less significant is that service -- particularly service together for the common good -- tends to forge social bonds that remind people that we are not solely for ourselves: that we need other people and they need us; and that our common values as Americans are more widely shared than we may imagine. Service, well done, gives us pride, a sense of value, and meaning for our lives.</p>
9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	<p>As a Nam era vet having volunteered for the draft then spending almost 5 years on active duty from 1965~1970 I'm pro draft. The greatest mistake our nation has made is to end public service for our youngsters whether be in war or "peace". I feel every able bodied citizen, male and female should have a commitment to serve their country for a period of six years until they are honorably or less so from service. The professional military concept has probably made for a better military, but meantime we are suffering societal, core rot due to young persons not feeling they any obligation to nation. The destruction of the nation state has been the goal globalists for at least a hundred years and they've almost succeeded except to be somewhat slowed down or hopefully stopped on President Trump's watch. Unequivocally we need mandatory public service for all between the ages of 18~55. They could be enlisted for the purpose of public service projects like the CCC during the depression era etc. which would be amenable to conscientious objectors and preventing them from shirking their duty to the nation. Freedom is not free...!</p>

9/5/18	<p>Service has plenty of value. The military is NOT service in any way shape or form. If someone wants to SERVE they should get a job as a firefighter or a teacher or something actually USEFUL rather than volunteering to murder foreigners.</p> <p>The draft was never important and was a violation of human rights that our country needs to make amends for. The selective service needs to be abolished. There's a word for mandatory "service", that word is SLAVERY. Mandatory service is banned by the 13th amendment.</p>
9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	<p>As a retired U.S. Navy officer, I respect the deeply held convictions of those who would call themselves conscientious objectors. I therefore propose that the unconditional option of non-military public service be offered to every citizen of draft age, regardless of educational or skill level, with pay and benefits equal to those electing military service.</p>
9/5/18	<p>Service does have inherent value--that of standing for something larger than oneself, which I think our country really needs. Committing yourself to the greater good is immeasurably enriching and a deep source of personal growth.</p> <p>That said, the current administration does not inspire a commitment to service. Our current chief executive has zero interest beyond anything that doesn't include him, and sets an absolutely terrible example for proper dignified behavior appropriate to a Commander in Chief. So I can see why no one is enlisting if that's the case. Never mind how he has treated DACA recipients who have gone on to enlist!</p> <p>I do believe required selective service (draft) registration for men needs to end, and not begin for women--in other words, no draft. We need inspirational leadership and the kinds of benefits and support this country used to provide post-WWII, for all members of the service.</p> <p>We must also continue to allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. This is a real position that deserves respect--especially in these times of 'religious freedom' emphasis.</p>
9/5/18	<p>The time has come to END required selective service (draft) registration for men. This outdated practice does not belong in a modern democratic society. Additionally, do not begin requiring that women register. This is counterproductive as required registration must be abolished. Should the commission decide to not end required selective service registration, registrants should be allowed the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. Futhermore, if there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service." Thank you for your time.</p>

9/5/18	My family and I believe that our grandchildren and all young Americans should NOT be required to register for any military service or draft. Too much money and emphasis is given to the military. Better to spend \$ on meeting basic human needs (clean water, healthy food, basic housing, healthcare, and education). These are the things that will create real jobs for the most people and improve everyone's quality of life. If you want to have a "year of service" for EVERYONE (no exceptions), it should be a chance for young people to spend time after high school working for the public good: getting a basic \$ stipend to help in parks, libraries, elementary schools, health clinics, etc. This could be everything from helping build houses, like with Habitat for Humanity, being a "candy striper" at a local hospital, working in a food pantry, helping young kids learn to read, or working in a community garden or animal shelter. All these things would expose young people to a variety of potential careers and give them real life experience and something to put on a resume. My husband and I, our 2 daughters and 6 grandchildren have all done volunteer work at various times in our local communities and with our church.
9/5/18	I want to see the end of required selective service (draft) registration for men. Mandatory service for all Americans is not necessary or valuable. It is always poor and marginalized communities who end up fighting the wars on behalf of the rich, who continue to eagerly extend American imperialist interests.
9/5/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	As a young, Naive 19 year old, I volunteered & enlisted during the Cuban Missile Crises. After several months in the Air Force, I began to understand that the corruption in the military was rampant, our commanders were just as apt to be drunk and disorderly as any of the rest of us, and many of them were out to feather their own nests, at the expense and often detriment of other personnel. The commanders we served under in Vietnam, often had no concept of the dangers we were in due to their incompetency. There were the glory seekers too and they put us in harms way, simply because they wanted promotions, medals, and personal fame. I was a self proclaimed hawk in late 1962, and a Proud Pacifist by the time I received my honorable discharge in Oct 1966. I've remained in that camp since then. The VALUE of my service, if any is to be found, was learning that the military is Not what it was cracked up to be and that there are better, and more logical reasons to avoid it.
9/5/18	We need to have a draft/selective service. All living in USA need to be registered- male and female, citizen and non-citizen, no exceptions. It is one way to stop perpetual war- by making every single person accountable for our country's military madness.
9/5/18	As the current president is only in office due to Russian election meddling. As he is guilty of traitorous and felonious crimes. As he is neither intelligent or in control of his emotions enough to be a president. There should be no draft until he leaves office.

9/5/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. End required selective service (draft) registration for men. 2. Do not begin requiring that women register. 3. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. 4. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	<p>My son is steadfastly anti-war. I urge you to not require everyone to register for the draft, or at least offer a conscientious-objector option that offers equal pay and length of employment to those who are drafted into the military.</p>
9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	<p>I think a mandatory period of service to the country is an undeniable benefit both to the country and to the individuals. Many 'civilized' countries offer programs besides military ones for its citizens to choose from. This speaks to the wider range of needs the country has in addition to military ones. In the past, institutions like the CCC and the WPA offered this service. They provided learning opportunities as well as fulfilling a duty to country. There should be opportunities that allow for disabilities, individual talents or interests and offered as equal in value to military service. It would be great if it were considered a part of the education process for all citizens. Perhaps the best time would be right after high school when young men and women are at a sort of 'peak' of energy and interest as well as at the interface between their more parochial lives and the entrance into the broader milieu of the multicultural public world that is our nation. Working side by side for a common cause with others representative of that broader spectrum of life will go a long way toward understanding our mutual goals of inclusion and strength.</p>

9/5/18	<p>As a parent of a son, I advised him to register for the Armed Forces, which was required while he was a high school senior, that he register as a Conscientious Objector. During his childhood, I never allowed him to play with "toy weapons" nor watch violence on television. I object, as does he, to killing another person, which includes practicing and preparing to o the same.</p> <p>I believe that the U.S. should: End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector, as did my son without any federal option or assistance in registering that objection. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p> <p>Ending the mandatory registration for armed forces will not leave the country without a standing army as long as the pay, benefits, and honor bestowed upon the members of a voluntary are commensurate with the danger and potential loss of life.</p> <p>Sincerely, Dr. Morgan Marchbanks, Ed.D ██████████ Fulton, CA ██████████</p>
9/5/18	<p>War (and preparation for War) in the last 3 years -- in the good old USA-- has consumed more than a Trillion \$\$s (that's more than a THOUSAND Million) \$\$\$s while many schools do NOT have adequate books, teachers or lunches! Imagine becoming Thinkers (and away from brutal problem-solvers) and funding instead children's NEEDS first, second and LAST !! ----All Children's and ALL their needs!!---</p>
9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	<p>Since war is completely immoral, no one should have to register to serve in it!</p>
9/5/18	<p>I am in favor of a mandatory 1-2 year service on the Israeli model. No loop-holes-Everybody serves. Some people will elect to serve in the military. Most will fill a variety of public service rolls. All will go through a basic training that includes some level of the physical training that is traditionally used for military service, and also democracy building training/ activities. Everyone will gain skills, provide needed labor at entry level rates, build a sense of community and rapport and commitment to country that veterans take away from their service. In this team building environment, the problems we are experiencing with racism would decline. Service could include farm labor, eliminating the need/demand for illegal immigrants whom we currently depend on to do that work. Additionally, a plan could be worked out in which pay is banked; upon discharge, young people have a nest egg for college, potentially replacing the student loan program.</p>

9/5/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men and do not start requiring women to register. If selective service is not ended, allow the individual to register as a conscientious objector. If non-military service is required, ensure its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	Until there is a draft, requiring all people - including the sons and daughters of the 1% - this is really coercive and disingenuous. I believe we would be out of these wars if there was a draft - but since so few serve and sacrifice, it is a somewhat hidden issue.
9/5/18	Compulsory military service is a violation of the fundamental freedom of human beings. That denial of freedom is the first mark of an authoritarian and fascist state. The premise of the founders of our country was that free citizens would defend their homes against a foreign enemy. For over a century our country rejected use of military force abroad except to protect its endangered citizens. For the sake of freedom we must return to a defensive policy which encourages nonviolent means of resistance that characterized the early resistance to British tyranny. Our resources and taxes must be redirected from foreign wars to strengthening the social and economic welfare of our country and its inhabitants.
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9/5/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	I don't think we should have the draft, if so, I think you should be able to register as a conscientious objector.

9/5/18	<p>Drop the requirement for selective service (draft) registration for men. If there is a cause worthy of service that inspires people (men and women) to serve, then they will serve voluntarily and elect to join in whatever capacity they can be most effective.</p> <p>If selective service registration is not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. It's a long held belief, manifested in the death of so many servicemen and servicewomen, along with thousands upon thousands of innocents, that the military is a toolbox, with dispensable men and women, to be used as pawns for foreign policy and commercial gain.</p> <p>If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military service. The value placed on the type of service communicates our priorities and values as a nation. The military industrial complex has been the largest drain for taxpayers, with the exception of retirement programs (Social Security and Medicare). That communicates our prioritization of death, destruction, war, aggression, instability, and dehumanization of nations, cultures, and populations. It's time we value building, innovation, and growth that isn't attained at the expense of others.</p>
9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	<p>We need to stop registration for the Selective service draft.</p>
9/5/18	<p>I have the following recommendations: End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service." Thank you, Eve Shapiro MD, MPH</p>
9/5/18	<p>Of course service has inherent value--the objective to safeguard the nation is obviously a valid one. Mandatory service does have drawbacks, however: how effective is a soldier who is there against his or her will? This leads one to consider ending required selective service (draft) registration for men and certainly not beginning to require that women register. In any case, the choice of registering as a conscientious objector should be allowed as well--again, how effective is a soldier who does not believe in his or her mission?</p>
9/5/18	<p>No draft and no registration!</p>
9/5/18	<p>The "Selective Service" is an antiquated holdover from when we didn't have a volunteer military. As we now have a standing, all-volunteer military, this holdover should be considered no longer necessary. As example of this need, after the attacks of 9/11/2001, there was a large upswing of volunteers enlisting; it's safe to safe enforced conscription is demonstrably not needed in this day and age.</p>

9/5/18	The entire war-based economy is leading us to nuclear destruction. To create a department of Peace, to fund it with more than is currently wasted on "defense", and to create well-paid peaceful alternatives to military service for our youth would be good steps toward eliminating war from this planet. Short of that, I fear we are doomed to gradual disintegration
9/5/18	There is no point in having selective service registration. It is a waste of resources, and should be abolished.
9/5/18	Greetings, Thank you so much for your time and reflection. I want to submit the following suggestions for consideration. Please consider adding to national service registration these additional registration options: (1) registering as a conscientious objector; (2) registering as an employee of a non-governmental unarmed civilian protection group; (3) registering as a nonviolent public servant. Thank you once again!
9/5/18	End mandatory men's selective-service registration and do not begin requiring that women's register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	The draft is unjust and antiquated. Men and women both should not be required to sign up for the draft unless they genuinely desire perform military service for their country. Military service requires physical and emotional burdens on service members as well as their family and friends. Such burdens should never be forced on anyone.
9/5/18	I oppose the idea of a draft because I regard it as an institutionalized form of slavery. Including women in a mandatory draft is unconscionable because the military has repeatedly demonstrated that women in the armed services are not safe from their fellow soldiers. Wars are increasingly less dependent upon superior numbers of physical soldiers so it seems unreasonable to force men and women to comply with a draft. If some form of a draft remains in place there must be a provision to register as a conscientious objector and nonmilitary service provided with equal pay and benefits.
9/5/18	I believe every youth in the US (born citizen or newly arrived immigrant alike - every youth) upon graduation from High School (we need more of that, too, but that's a subject for another day.) completion of a GDR, high-school equivalency program or reaching his or her 19th (? maybe 20th?) birthday should be required to serve the country in some manner for no less than one year. Those with an aptitude for the military and the desire to continue can lengthen their service - those who show a real aptitude for various non-military endeavors should be allowed to continue in those fields. There should be ABSOLUTELY no exemption for "college" or any but the most severe and grievous medical, physical or mental impairments (eg: folks in wheelchairs can do computerized, desk-oriented tasks). Once the required minimum year of service is completed, a person would be free to pursue or continue their education or a job in the private sector or in whatever endeavor they have worked. With what is obviously needed, a vast and severe rollback of US military involvement overseas, many or most might be employed in a C.C.C or similar style program to help with the reconstruction of infrastructure, do conservation work, tutor children, serve as

	<p>hospital orderlies or business "interns" - anything, really, but there should be no "excuses" for the children of "The Rich", unless quadriplegic or seriously intellectually impaired (or other sincerely limiting lifelong conditions.)</p> <p>I could go on, but if you've bothered to read this far I think you will have gotten the gist of my message.</p>
9/5/18	<p>I was lucky enough not to have to register for the draft the first time around. When we have all these conflicts about Oil around the world, the draft is basically a form of slavery which robs those chosen of whatever they were going to do with their lives. It's a wrong and outmoded system.</p>
9/5/18	<p>I do believe in having a draft that includes a national service provision not tied to military service. I also believe it should be universal and the only exemption would be for extreme disability or incapacitation not for bone spurs. It should also be for women that are of age and that the terms are equal to men. No one regardless of economic condition should be excluded from serving their country.</p>
9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men.</p> <p>Do not begin requiring that women register.</p> <p>If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	<p>In the 21st century we should have progressed as a nation and world so that large militaries are not necessary. But, since we have not, we must at least be sure that all persons are treated equally. That means that either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- We require all citizens (male, female and trans) to register for the draft (just in case we ever decide to start drafting again) or -- Stop requiring male citizens to register and eliminate the draft by law rather than inaction.
9/5/18	<p>Allow adults to make their own decisions about whether to fight.</p>
9/5/18	<p>War only helps billionaires. No more!</p>

9/5/18	<p>Our nation was started without a standing army. Our founding fathers did not believe it needed one. It was the reason for the second amendment, which provides ownership of firearms for a state-based militia, something like the state police forces of today. The wars we are waging over the last century are not those that the majority of Americans agreed to fight. The majority of Americans agree that we do not need to have such a large military force. Public service in the form of helping with non-profit needs of the country I agree with. Public service accounting for soup kitchens, public housing, assisting with victims of violent crime, all of these need volunteers and the funding that goes out to killing people of other nations would be better put to use in helping the members of this nation. The military draft should never have started and should not be in existence today. Forcing people to fight a war that they do not believe in is against the character of freedom that our nation was founded upon. I still see a large number of people enlisting. They are drawn in due to your advertising on television, facebook and films. If you feel the need to continue to kill members of other nations that are doing nothing to our nation, continue to enlarge our oversized military. If you believe in freedom and liberty, end the draft unless you change it to service in our non-profit society that chooses to serve the American public at home and the needs of the world's public at large.</p>
9/5/18	<p>During Vietnam, men were REQUIRED to join the military, whether they wanted to or not. We were WILLINGLY embroiled in a war that couldn't be won. That's what we do - insert ourselves into situations that are in-winnable. We did the same in Iraq and Afghanistan. We're the "great defenders of the world", and we can't even save our own country.</p> <p>I personally feel that mandatory service WITHIN OUR BORDERS, for two years isn't a bad idea. It may benefit our citizens both physically and mentally, establish a "get-it-done" attitude, and lead to greater feelings of respect and national pride.</p> <p>With that said, I STRONGLY DISAGREE FORCING ENROLLMENT IN SITUATIONS WE HAVE NO REASON TO BE INVOLVED.</p> <p>VIETNAM,IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN WERE DISASTERS, AND TORE OUR COUNTRY APART. WE CAN NOT ALLOW ANOTHER UNNECESSARY WAR. IT MAY BE OUR UNDOING.</p>
9/5/18	<p>The United States of America should have a 2 year public service requirement.</p> <p>Our military should have a substantial number of drafted personnel. No person should be able to elect not to serve in the military. The sons and daughters of every elected member of congress should have an equal probability of being drafted and dying in combat. It is because the children of most of us, including the people with the power to avoid war, can avoid military service that we have so many, endless wars.</p> <p>All Americans benefit from basic American infrastructure such as schools, parks, safe communities. It is reasonable to expect every American to engage in public service for two years to help build and maintain our public infrastructure.</p>
9/5/18	<p>2. By only engage in wars that protect really the country. Not wars ar what happened under GW when Iraq was invaded under false premises.3. Undeclared and justified wars.</p> <p>5. Military draft is outdated.</p> <p>7. Nor necessary, valuable, or feasible!</p>

9/5/18	<p>The United States of America should have a 2 year public service requirement.</p> <p>Our military should have a substantial number of drafted personnel. No person should be able to elect not to serve in the military. The sons and daughters of every elected member of congress should have an equal probability of being drafted and dying in combat. It is because the children of most of us, including the people with the power to avoid war, can avoid military service that we have so many, endless wars.</p> <p>All Americans benefit from basic American infrastructure such as schools, parks, safe communities. It is reasonable to expect every American to engage in public service for two years to help build and maintain our public infrastructure.</p>
9/5/18	<p>Jone</p>
9/5/18	<p>I'm embarrassed to say that I thought the Military Draft was over. I guess I was wrong. I see no value in a Draft System that is without a doubt costing Tax Dollars. I believe our Federal Database is Modern Enough to activate only at times of Need. An Online System can link any inquiries to the appropriate agency for clarifications and followup.</p>
9/5/18	<p>I strongly object to the selective service for men, and for women. Service must be voluntary, or it has no meaning whatsoever. Furthermore, if this policy is adopted, there <i>*must*</i> be a choice -- for everyone -- to register as a conscientious objector, and that choice must be wholly respected, regardless of the reason(s) for that choice.</p> <p>Furthermore, those who are shunted into non-military 'service' must be paid at an equal rate to those who are forced into the military.</p> <p>Overall, this is a terrible idea.</p>
9/5/18	<p>This is a pretty good synopsis:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. End required selective service (draft) registration for men. 2. Do not begin requiring that anyone else register. 3. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. 4. If there must be non-military service for C.O.s, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military service.
9/5/18	<p>End mandatory draft registration entirely. If this is not possible, offer a registration option as a conscientious objector. Offer non-military public service positions at the same pay rate as military recruits. When it's clear, through words and deeds, that such service is highly valued by society, young people will sign up, and may just embark on a lifetime valuing service to society.</p>
9/5/18	<p>If there is to be mandatory registration for national service, it must be changed to include a provision for registrants to say they are conscientious objectors to serving in the military. Then, the provided alternative national service must have equal pay and benefits to those doing the constructive, peaceful and very needed work which such alternative service could provide our country given some intelligent, creative thought and planning.</p>

9/5/18	<p>The draft was the reason people were able to end the Vietnam war by saying "We won't go".</p> <p>Now we have a mercenary army that is paid to enlist and re enlist.</p> <p>a 2 year required service is not a bad idea, as long as people can chose to go into the National Guard, stay in the US and help with disasters and rebuilding infrastructure. Perhaps we could enact a department of peace, that could gain respect with Pentagon funds and improve our image around the world.</p> <p>We could also return the name of the Defense Department to it's old moniker; The War Department, and scrap the idea of a Space Force.</p>
9/5/18	Finish teh GOBDEM job ! ELIMINATE registration !!
9/5/18	As a member of the Society of Friends (Quakers), I am opposed to a military draft. If a military draft is continued, then it should allow for the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If non-military service becomes an option to a continued draft, then its pay and benefits should be at least equal to those for the military.
9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men.</p> <p>Do not begin requiring that women register.</p> <p>If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	Do not force women to be drafted!!!!
9/5/18	Modify selective service system. Allow alternative civilian service with same pay as draft system. Mandatory service is okay if there are alternate choices to military draft.
9/5/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. End required selective service (draft) registration for men. 2. Do not begin requiring that women register. 3. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. 4. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	Stop the draft.
9/5/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. YES, there should be mandatory selective service registration for all, male and female. 2. CO should only be allowed based on the prevailing national position at that time. Every issue is not always ethical because the U.S government demands it, eg. Vietnam or the Indian Wars. 3. Everyone of selective service age MUST serve in some capacity and only be excused because of debilitating physical inability or mental incapacity (eg. foot spurs could sort mail). At which point those individuals will no longer qualify for future public office. <p>National requirements on all just might raise the consciousness of society that we are all part of American society and owe allegiance to to the country from which we all benefit.</p>

9/5/18	Consistent with the constitutional prohibition against involuntarily servitude, I strongly urge the Commission to end required selective service registration. Article I Section 8 of the Constitution states that the purpose of the Military is "to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions." By limiting military action to these enumerated functions, we would ensure that an all-volunteer service would be sufficient to serve and protect us. Stop trying to police the world, and the world will be less hostile toward us.
9/5/18	The Draft is a VERY Bad Idea.
9/5/18	Abolish mandatory selective service for all American citizens.
9/5/18	<p>Please:</p> <p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Jonathan Boyne Honolulu</p>
9/5/18	America's foreign policy is illegal under the UN Charter and the Nuremberg Principles. Wars of aggression have continued under both political parties, and these are the policies that the Nazis were hung for after World War Two. This is a disgrace. We need to bring America into line with restraints and the rule of law and stop this endless belligerence. America needs fewer soldiers not more.
9/5/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."

9/5/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. End required selective service (draft) registration for men. 2. Do not begin requiring that women register. 3. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. 4. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	<p>End required selective service registration for men, and do not begin requiring that women register. Nobody should be forced to engage in the unjust and immoral military. If not ended, the choice of registering as a conscientious objector must be allowed to respect the right of conscience for those that understand the military to be immoral. If there must be non-military service required, its pay and benefits must at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	<p>Requirement should be maintained. A conscript army is the only check on hawks in government going to war on a whim. Modification should provide for president's and congress' children to go first.</p>
9/5/18	<p>Please end selective service registration for men, and please do not begin requiring registration for women. If the registration is not ended, please allow the option to register as a conscientious objector. If non-military service is approved, please make sure its pay and benefits are equal to those of military service. Thank you.</p>
9/5/18	<p>Why are we still the policemen for the world? How has that worked out?</p>
9/5/18	<p>Service in any of the Military Branches should be 100% voluntary! I am a Veteran and know of the pride and conviction of serving voluntarily. I believe that any US citizen would participate in the defense of our country if it becomes necessary, without having to be drafted. Those that choose to serve will always be there, and will be more than willing to protect our Nation, even with our lives. I don't believe that anyone that is forced into the military will actually be able to die for country or his/her fellow soldier or citizen.</p>

9/5/18	To serve in the military is an honor but it is not suitable for everyone. Please work to END any mandatory draft for men & women. Please instead offer "CHOICE" to serve for two or four years after high school with agencies doing humanitarian work (Habitat for Humanity, Peace Corps, Jesuit Volunteer Corps, etc..) or CHOICE to serve in U.S. military. In addition, the young people serving our nation in any manner should be paid EQUAL to those serving in the military and BOTH should have adequate affordable health care.
9/5/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No, it does not. 2. Young Americans want to help their country, not wage wars based on lies. That's why we have Americorps. 3. There are very few barriers to those who want to participate. 4. Stop creating wars based on lies that allow big corporations to profit, while our service members and their families are horribly impacted. 5. If the draft worked, you would have used it for Afghanistan and Iraq, but if you did reinstate the draft people would start asking questions about why those wars are still going on and what they are accomplishing, and how much they are costing us in dollars, lives, and the impact on the environment. 6. Yes, abolish it. 7. I feel requiring a year of service to help lift all Americans, is feasible, but also leaves youth ripe for exploitation. It would have to be done very, carefully.
9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	<p>There are many people in the US, myself included, who believe that most, if not all, of our recent armed conflicts were situations that the US should not have gotten involved in. Many of us are unwilling to participate in a fight we do not believe in, especially considering that mortal danger is involved. I strongly believe that the US is not going to see an increase in voluntary service until the US actually becomes a welcoming and peaceful nation, which it is failing to be at present.</p> <p>It would also increase morale if service members could be certain that they would have the benefits they will need as veterans. This is something we are failing at as well.</p> <p>The 13th amendment to the US Constitution states: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction." The military draft (selective service) is "involuntary servitude", and therefore in violation of the 13th amendment. The continuing existence of the selective service system, which may at any time be used to draft unwilling service members, is illegal and must be entirely abolished.</p> <p>However, if the draft is reinstated, it is important that a legal option exists to register as a conscientious objector — and that option must not require any work which aids and abets the military process they object to.</p> <p>As much as we strive for equality in job opportunities, let us not focus on welcoming and encouraging service by women, LGBTQIA+, and minorities, but instead focus on abolishing the selective service system, which mandates registering all men whether they are so inclined or not.</p>
9/5/18	No more war anywhere ever!!!!!!!!!! People are killed like pawns in the games of tyrants. For what? The tyrants should be called to their war for just them.

9/5/18	<p>Every war waged engaged by the United States since World War 2 has been of completely ambiguous if not dubious benefit to the United States, and thus moronic. You have the measurements to prove that the Koreas are better off due to this intervention? You aren't actually going to try to make this claim for Vietnam, Iraq or Afghanistan?</p> <p>National security experts say, national security, and it turns out they are full of shit, be it communist dominoes or terrorists. And by "terrorist" we mean often suicidal guerrilla forces who have been utterly swept away by hatred for the United States. And this great nation, is going to wage more war, rather than analyze the hatred and take action based on that. Talking head experts convince morons that they hate us for our freedom. Historically, it's because of American foreign policy supporting asshole dictators sympathetic to business interests, if it isn't simply American-made weaponry killing the family members of soon to be terrorists. Say, Hi Yemen!Morons.....</p> <p>News! More people than ever are going to point to Eisenhower's farewell address, and say the nation is fucking sacked by a military-industrial complex induced paranoia. Enjoy the blowback bitches!</p> <p>These are barriers to service. Maybe try, being a nation somewhat intelligent people are proud of, instead of being more like THE GREATEST PURVEYOR OF VIOLENCE IN THE WORLD TODAY. Said Martin Luther King Jr, during the Vietnam war. Everyday things change, but basically they stayed the same...</p>
9/5/18	<p>As a tax paying US citizen, I respectfully demand that US leadership:</p> <p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p> <p>Sincerely and with respect, Paul Meers Conway, AR</p>

9/5/18	<p>Hello.</p> <p>I believe that required selective service/draft registration should be ended.</p> <p>If it is to continue, then please permit the option of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>If there must be a "mandatory service requirement" for non-military service (e.g., for conscientious objectors), please make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military service.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>
9/5/18	<p>Mandatory service requirement for all Americans unnecessary. Force the military complex (greedy warmonger corporations) and their lackeys in Congress and the White House, to fight their own wars. There are too many uninformed, naive Americans willing to volunteer to fight already.</p>
9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men and do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be nonmilitary service, then make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Selective service has no inherent value. 2. Increase desire to serve by not using war as a solution. 3. There are no longer any real barriers. 4. Increase participation by not promoting illegal wars to gain empire. 5. The draft never was necessary. 6. Abolish the selective service. 7. Mandatory service requirement should not exist in a free country.
9/5/18	<p>The Selectrive Service is waaaaay out of date! It is time it stop. If the cause is strong enough for Americans to want to embrace it, there wil be enough people to sign up. R.Sheets</p>
9/5/18	<p>It's good to request service for constructive projects. But the younger generations already hate this country's hypocrisy and drive to war. Do NOT require registration for war! Instead, create projects for peace and helping others,k not killing them. this is a move to keep making the military-industrial cohoot even richer, and to keep us in unending war.</p>
9/5/18	<p>As a mental health counselor, it is blatantly obvious that not all people can compartmentalize sufficiently to survive wartime service without severe injury to their mental functioning. We should all be thankful for the people who volunteer for these positions (and even this subset of people can be taken by surprise at the effects of wartime experience). People are not disposable commodities. Given an endless supply of bodies, this modern profit-driven warfare would never end. Soldiers are professional people with well honed capabilities. You wouldn't want an unwilling and untrained person performing any surgeries you may need.</p>

9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	<p>To Whom It May Concern: I request the following changes: End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service." Thank you.</p>
9/5/18	<p>Please end required selective service (draft) registration for men. Please do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, please allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, please make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service." Thanks for listening.</p>
9/5/18	<p>Service can be good for citizens who serve and for those served. There is, however, too much emphasis on military options. End draft registration. Invest more money in Americorp and Peace Corp programs. Market these programs through popular media as the military services are doing. Focus marketing on people with particular skills and education that would be beneficial for the programs in need.</p>
9/5/18	<p>Service has inherent value. The pay and the benefits to joining such organizations as the Peace Corp and other Peace Keeping forces...should be equal to that of joining the military. Create more opportunities to serve as peace builders that our young can make a living/career from. Also, people should be able to register as conscientious objectors ...retrain military in peace building methods so that violence will be interrupted and prevented and restoration... healing...and development can happen.</p>

9/5/18	<p>Hello;</p> <p>A mandatory service requirement would NOT be a valuable requirement, being resisted by many and disliked by many others, not creating the attitude that would be hoped for.</p> <p>More women might enlist if more were done to assure fair treatment, and further assurance against sexual abuse.</p> <p>Julia Morgan Ithaca NY</p>
9/5/18	<p>yes, service does have an inherent value. yes, service does have an inherent value.</p> <p>Modifications to selective service: End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service." END OF QUESTION</p>

9/5/18	<p>1. VOLUNTARY service has many benefits. Not REQUIRED service.</p> <p>2. How about not starting wars for profit? Or over lies (like WMD's in Iraq)? In short, be prudent and transparent about what it is that you are asking your citizens to die for.</p> <p>3. Poor pay compared to other options and geographic instability (the many times a military family has to relocate).</p> <p>4. See answers 2 and 3 above.</p> <p>5. No.</p> <p>6. Yes: -End required selective service (draft) registration for men. -Do not begin requiring that women register. -If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. -If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p> <p>7. No.</p>
9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>

9/5/18	Completely eliminate the military in all its manifestations and use its funding for peaceful endeavors. If we are truly a Christian country as we claim then put our faith in Jesus Christ to protect and enrich our lives and the lives of people all over the world. We are taught to Love God - God is Love - Love Love ; Peace is Possible!
9/5/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	We need to reign in America's use of our soldiers to fight for corporate greed and power. To that end I believe we should end required selective service registration for men. Women should also not have to start to register. If selective service is not ended, people should be allowed to choose to register as a conscientious objector. I would be in favor of non-military service. However, people who choose that service should be paid and have similar benefits at least equal to those of military "service." If increasing service is a desired goal. Pay people a good wage that will make them want to serve instead of finding a job elsewhere.
9/5/18	The military draft or draft contingency is not a necessary component of U.S. national security! Many young people enlist, those that don't should not be drafted!
9/5/18	Burned my draft card in '69. Enough said?
9/5/18	There should be a conscious objector service and it should be compensated at the same rate as military service.
9/5/18	The military hates the human race, check out geoengineering watch with over 31 million views.
9/5/18	1.Yes, service has inherent value. It affirms the importance of participating in the life of our country. 2.Government care for its employees has to be quality for all. 3.Cuts and problems in veterans' benefits show a lack of commitment from the country to those who have served. 4.Pay more for critical skills (Teachers in areas of need receive bonuses for entering those areas, as well as industry leaders know they have to be competitive in today's market.) Leave sexual orientation out of the formula both formally and informally. If we want quality service, we need to be open to those who want to serve. 5.As long as we aren't going to be competitive in the job market and volunteers don't fill the need, then yes the draft needs to be an option. 6.I have no modifications in mind. 7.At this point I don't see mandatory service as necessary, valuable or feasible. Although I think many benefit from the discipline, making it mandatory doesn't seem right for the present.
9/5/18	I do not believe the draft (selective service) is necessary, and mandatory service is absolutely unnecessary. End required selective service (draft) registration for men, and do not begin requiring that women register. If it is not ended, then allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men.

9/5/18	<p>"Service" is an important human endeavor that leads to a sense of accomplishment, value to society, and a purpose larger than oneself. These values are necessary for humans to reach their full potential.</p> <p>However, MILITARY service does not meet those criteria. I do not believe that citizens should be forced to participate in military service. The Commission should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * End required selective service (draft) registration for men. * Do not begin requiring that women register. * If registration is not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. * If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	As a navy Vietnam veteran, I believe a military draft is not necessary if pay and benefits match the private sector.
9/5/18	<p>I believe we need to move beyond war and look at options that are not a lose/lose scenario. If we have military action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. End required selective service (draft) registration for men. 2. Do not begin requiring that women register. 3. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. 4. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service." <p>Let's move this world beyond war!</p>
9/5/18	Women do not need to register for selective service. When we've exhausted our lower economic trend of prison or going into the military, women will be looked at to fill the gaps! Don't have enough lives to sacrifice? Mandatory service as PUBLIC SERVICE not for war and killing, perhaps. Build a community not destroy it with war!
9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men.</p> <p>Do not begin requiring that women register.</p> <p>If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>

9/5/18	The draft is just an unnecessary way for the conservative extremists and corrupt rich in US politics and Wall Street to send people out to die so that they can hold on to the wealth that they have robbed from hard-working Americans while bringing our country downhill with degenerate viewpoints they call pure and "God's will." The criminals are not those of the dwindling middle class and growing lower class and poverty-stricken who have been thrown in jail or raped or killed for resisting arrest - the REAL criminals are the ones in our government and Wall St. and religious fundamentalist groups who are destroying America, raping us of our rights, encouraging the rise of fascism while severing diplomatic ties with the rest of the world that is not Putin's Russia, and trying to put an end to all progress that is needed to make America great and which was responsible for making it great. Should another election be rigged on both federal and state levels by the Republicans and Putin; should one more attempt be made to cut healthcare and women's rights; should one more attempt be made to construct any and all borders keeping out immigrants that make our country great; should one more deportation raid be made by ICE; should one more KKK or Neo-Nazi rally rise and claim innocent victims; should one more attempt be made to roll back protections for all currently under attack that represent progress and true freedom including LGBTQ individuals, immigrants, scientists, students and people with disabilities; should one more attempt be made to appoint corrupt, degenerate and incompetent capitalists, fascists and fundamentalists approved by Republicans but not the people; and should one more attempt be made to pass the draft without the approval of the people that said draft would send to their deaths at the expense of their lives; WE WILL RISE, and it will not just be another peace rally. We will target those in the current Trump Administration and Republican Congress and Wall St. and extremist conservative religious fundamentalist factions responsible for all the things wrong with America today and we will hold them more than merely accountable for their crimes in any way imaginable! We will take back the wealth they robbed from us and use it to save all that is at stake. And if it comes down to the arrest, torture and bloodletting of those aforementioned targets, so be it! It is either the many or the few, and we will not allow America to be brought down by the few. It's OPEN SEASON on Trump and his corrupt, incompetent Cabinet including Kavanaugh; the current Republican Congress, the Koch Brothers and Wall St., the KKK and Neo-Nazi factions, the oil and nuclear companies, and the extremist conservative religious fundamentalist factions and all their supporters and sponsors responsible for the downfall of our country and the current state of the world!
9/5/18	If there must be a draft, then make sure to draft the sons of draft-dodging hypocrites from the Bush family, the trump family, cheny family, karl rove, limbaugh, etc.
9/5/18	The US military has no right to demand service when it is a global bully for hire meddling in other nations for profit, playing with our sons' and daughters' lives - never the elites' kids - and expecting complete loyalty from soldiers? No, this is wrong. It is an abomination to what is intended for a secure nation. In fact, it is completely unnecessary because the USA already has an perfectly strong established militia with the largest armed population on the planet. Our responsibility to defend our homeland begins and ends at our borders. Anything else is craven degeneracy. We have secure borders right here and now, with our own armed citizens, without any need what so ever for mandatory participation in a global guns for hire corporate military industrial complex. Further, it is sexist and unlawful to mandate one sex register over another. This nation's military is a degenerate cluster of illicit and immoral greed infested craven debauchery. How dare these fiends demand participation in there hounds from hell cult?
9/5/18	Drafts should NOT happen
9/5/18	I believe that Public Service is a good idea for young high school and college should be payed and recruited to help the country. Military Draft should be for men & women.
9/5/18	I personally believe that this particular service no longer has any inherent value

9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men.</p> <p>Do not begin requiring that women register.</p> <p>If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	<p>At present there is about a 3 (or more) - 1 ratio of men/women in the armed services who align themselves with one party. This is unacceptable and quite different than during WWII, Korea, and the Vietnam wars, Thus, I believe that we should have mandatory public service so that ALL US citizens, regardless of their entitled past or present or gender or ethnicity can participate. They do not have to serve in the military but should serve in some public service. Furthermore, the current volunteer armed services should be phased out to allow for all citizens to participate in establishing freedom. This should not only end thoughtless deployments but will establish a sense of service in our citizenry..</p>
9/5/18	<p>Please do not require women to sign up for the draft and please abolish draft requirements for men. Thank you!</p>
9/5/18	<p>In the United States of America, we are given the Freedom of Choice.</p> <p>This, beginning now, SHALL include the Freedom to Choose Militaristic Participation.</p> <p>We can not let this precious freedom die due to involuntary "drafting".</p>
9/5/18	<p>I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE END OF DRAFTING BOTH WOMEN AND MEN. HERE ARE ENOUGH PEOPLE WILLING TO VOLUNTEER FOR MILITARY SERVICE</p>
9/5/18	<p>I have always been for abolishing the draft, including registering. It seems that when the economy is poor, the armed forces get plenty of enlistees. When the economy is good, more money will still attract people so inclined to enlist. A national volunteer service, not military, to help others—feeding hungry, caring for sick or poor, assisting after disasters—would be a good idea. This could foster a caring attitude for others and improve self esteem</p>
9/5/18	<p>End the draft.</p>
9/5/18	<p>As a concerned American citizen and taxpayer I appreciate your considering my comments:</p> <p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men and do not begin requiring that women register.</p> <p>If registration is not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>

9/5/18	<p>Endless war and conflict around the globe are immoral and illegal. Human rights are real, and must be honored. Do NOT force anyone male or female to register or serve. Do NOT continue to rationalize and justify gratuitous violence with "terrorism" or other mindless propaganda. Civilians are dying in droves for the purpose of corporate greed and control. Private contractors carry out atrocities in the name of "democracy" (which our country is currently NOT). We are a far cry from democracy, and the only thing we should be doing is addressing our problems at home and supporting countries who need help (Israel does not "need" help, America is purchasing influence which is then turned to violence against innocents. Not only are you destroying lives of service members, you are destroying their families and many many civilians which are not accurately counted or medically supported. The "need" for an over-charged military does not exist. My father was shot down in one of America's worst planes ever, the B-17 "Flying Fortress". He survived the crash, but went back into the plane for his crew mate, screaming in the flames of the wreckage. Because of my father's bravery and commitment to saving his mate, he was captured by the Nazis and taken to four different POW camps in Germany, "stalags". His life was destroyed and he did not recover, though he did somehow survive the prisons. The Veteran's Administration turned their backs on him, and when he died young, they turned their backs on me. NO MORE WAR. War is for PROFIT, not DEMOCRACY. Use those monies for good instead of evil. Take care of your country properly! Educate your population properly! Grow real food, not factory farmed! Provide medical care for ALL. Your profit motives are KILLING THE PLANET!</p>
9/5/18	<p>Compulsory "service" is the same as slavery, which was outlawed over 100 years ago.</p>
9/5/18	<p>War is stupid! You kill millions of innocent people while stealing countries' resources under false flags so a relative handful of greedy bastards can become billionaires. STOP THE KILLING!!!</p>
9/5/18	<p>my vote: End required selective service registration.</p>

9/5/18	<p>Docket No. 05-2018-01</p> <p>The requirement for selective service registration for men should be ended. Do not begin requiring that women register. Conscientious objectors do not believe that killing others for any reason is justified. They should not be required to go against their conscience, as they would have to if they were forced to fight in a war.</p> <p>Non-military service is still service, and should receive pay and benefits as any other service person. People who do decide to serve militarily should receive benefits substantial enough to be an incentive. Free college tuition and lifetime help with job placement should be included, as an incentive for those who wish to serve. Also, military veterans should never be living on the street, as I have seen all too often. They deserve to be taken care of for life, if needs be.</p> <p>No one should be forced to serve, especially if going to war is against their conscience.</p> <p>I also believe that the United States should choose carefully when to go to war, and which wars. Our country has gone to war, and many young people ended up killed or seriously injured, in wars whose justification were very suspect. Americans should be able to trust their elected leaders, and believe what those leaders tell them, including any justification for putting armed forces in harm's way. We should only go to war to defend our citizens, and the freedom of the people who inhabit this planet, and not to support corrupt regimes, or to make money.</p>
9/5/18	<p>The only time military service should be required is in time of conflict with invading countries. Republican war mongers are the reason we are in the position we are currently in! Trump says we shouldn't be the police to the world yet he wants to have a war with Iran, Why?, So his buddies can profit off it like Bush and Cheney! I do not want my kids to be drafted so the ass in chief can save himself! BULL@#\$^, Let him sink with the rest of the republicans!</p>
9/5/18	<p>Mandatory service is valuable if it returns value to the servers. If the service is helping people around the world, after disasters, famines, etc, self worth is increased, skills are learned, and value is returned. if the service is killing people around the world, resulting in PTSD, amputations, death, etc, with the outsourcing of most skilled jobs, cost is endless and value is not returned. We need to change our military organizations into service organizations, a public service in which anyone would be proud to serve.</p>
9/5/18	<p>I believe that neither women nor men should be required to register for a potential draft. I believe that the military is highly valuable in that it provides for the defense of our nation. However, I believe that we should not be engaged in policing the rest of the world. Neither should we be engaged in wars elsewhere, unless we are specifically provoked by an attack on our nation directly. That should allow for completely voluntary military service.</p>
9/5/18	<p>Selective service is not "selective" so long as registration if required for men. Ever since Richard Nixon "ended" the draft, requiring registration to apply to college and get financial aid has been the tricky way that the military has been able to continue to feed its need for bodies. Men should not be required to register, and neither should women, and, in any case, registration should include the option to register as a conscientious objector.</p>

9/5/18	<p>Selective Service registration should be eliminated. Any task is done best when done by people who want to be doing it in the first place, rather than by people who are forced against their will. Yet the draft, which Selective Service registration makes possible, forces people to enlist in the armed forces against their will. Forcing people to enlist against their will is not only counterproductive; it is also unethical. Therefore, the Selective Service is counterproductive and unethical, and should be abolished. It certainly should not be expanded to include women, because expansion is the opposite of abolition. If the Selective Service is not abolished, it is imperative that conscientious objector status be preserved. Conscientious objectors such as myself take seriously the universal moral obligation not to kill, and would rather die than kill a fellow human, no matter the circumstances. No penalty exists that could compel a conscientious objector to serve a war effort. Penalties for conscientious objection are for that reason futile, and if anything, counterproductive. Therefore, the legal right to conscientiously object must be preserved. If the Commission truly wishes to "increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve", I believe they can best do this by re-orienting the Defense Department to eschew geo-strategic invasions and other foreign entanglements, and revert exclusively to the activity implied by the department's title. The truest defense comes from building peace. Peacebuilding entails the use of de-escalation techniques to prevent violence and promote civility and consensus-building. The most secure peace is attained by doing two things: (1.) Valuing the human life and dignity of another nation's people as highly as one values one's own. Nothing makes a people angrier than seeing that they are disrespected and dehumanized by a more powerful force; this is one half of where the anti-American sentiment that threatens peace comes from. (2.) Building a mutual prosperity that even the most marginalized members of all societies benefit from. Being impoverished while others live in luxury breeds anger just as much as being disrespected does, because poverty is contrary to human dignity. This is where the other half of anti-American sentiment comes from. I am thus suggesting that a defense devoid of violence -- a defense that does not dehumanize human beings by calling them "the enemy", or terrorize villagers with drones, or destroy human life, and instead builds peace -- is the only kind of defense that I can envision that many of the young people in my classroom would be most enthusiastic to serve. They are ready for a paradigm shift. Are you?</p>
9/5/18	<p>Most leading countries have service opportunities in a large variety of areas, not limited to defense with benefits for those serving including paying for training for the service and providing skills, college, health insurance, and pay with retirement for longer term (10 years and every 5 years the retirement increases to a CAP). Why not the USA? Roosevelt launched many service projects to make America a great nation! Why not continue this program in the modern day. If people can work in the field for what truly interests them, and are able to serve, with living wage and benefits similar to DOD, why not?</p>
9/5/18	<p>I appreciate our veterans. However, I don't appreciate parts of the draft. A major part is men having to sign up just to be a registered citizen. I believe that's not outdated because, women don't have to. Of course, I don't advocate that because, I don't know if most women would be okay with that.</p> <p>That said, I'm aware it may not be ended. That's why I urge you to allow the option to object because, a man could be anti-war. Or he could just want to fight his own battles.</p> <p>In addition, I ask that if there's going to be non-military service benefits, then those should be equal to service pay. Thank you for reading.</p>
9/5/18	<p>Please end now all required selective service registration for men and women. If registration is required , add a choice to register as a conscientious objector who has equal pay and benefits. Martha E. Martin, Kahului, HI [REDACTED]</p>

9/5/18	The SSA should be abolished, or failing that, a conscientious objector category should be added for those of us who never want to harm another human being. The fact that men are still conscripted into our military is a travesty. Particularly as wealthier men will shop for a doctor to give them whatever diagnosis exempts them from service while the poor join up just to get a warm bed and tuition assistance.
9/5/18	I don't know how on Earth anyone thinks they're going to pull this one on us; remember that those of us who were draft counselors in the '60's are now old enough to own land in Canada. Besides that, you no longer have a huge number of naive teenagers who will believe the nonsense that they're going to be defending democracy. They'd be fighting for resources so the greed-heads don't have to hire their own mercenaries, and they know that.
9/5/18	<p>Mandatory service in the military, in my opinion should NEVER be required, for any gender. This is a profoundly significant choice for any human being to have to make--involving countless human lives and violence, destruction and pollution of our shared environment--for the agendas, basically, of the powerful few. Service, of any kind--to one's community, country, world--is essential for a healthy society/world, but only if freely given. Service should never be forced, coerced, bribed or bullied/brain-washed into. It becomes something else. Service can only be freely and spontaneously given and authentic if a culture/world is to thrive. The question of how to increase the desire of Americans to serve in these ways, is its own answer. It implies the 'right' manipulation is being sought, which is exactly my point.</p> <p>I believe people do have a desire to serve, but more constructively. (Not meaning 'rebuilding' of destroyed countries). If we focused more on GENUINELY cooperating with other human beings, both around the globe and at home, with mutual respect and assistance as equals, instead of being taught to view others as 'enemies', view ourselves as rightfully dominant, and all others as less 'deserving', or as foes to be feared, hated and bombed, eradicated or controlled--we would not need so much, or even perhaps any? of this kind of military 'service'. Or this kind of 'home-land security' either. In my humble opinion.</p> <p>We need, alongside the military, and funded equally but entirely separate, a Peacetary or Peace Agency--which could provide so many other ways for all of us to serve our country, from a completely different perspective. I do not believe any kind of manipulation would be needed in this case, with no ulterior motives or hidden agendas involved, and when the enrichment were for the whole community not the select few. Most human beings would genuinely be inspired, engaged, and eager to serve. Again in my own humble opinion.</p>
9/5/18	<p>Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it?</p> <p>How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve?</p> <p>What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service?</p> <p>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?</p> <p>Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security?</p> <p>Are modifications to the selective service system needed?</p> <p>Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible?</p>
9/5/18	No more drafts for USA citizens too kill fellow humans in CIA sponsored fake wars.


9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	<p>Let me paint a horrifying scenarial: imagine a violent gang, perhaps the most violent in history. This gang is known to terrorize people from many neighborhoods, sometimes with only minor provocation, and often with incentives that relate in some way to financial greed. This gang is also looking to recruit even more members - despite their formidable size. Why is this gang pressuring so many people to join? So that they can terrorize EVEN MORE neighborhoods, of course!</p> <p>On top of which, this gang already has large numbers, large quantities of money (which it obtained through mostly-unethical means), high-end weapons, knowledgable (and socialpathic) leaders, and worst of all, they have been using a powerful combination of carefully-crafted lies, psycology, and public relations campaigns to make large swaths of society believe that helping this gang is some all-important "duty".</p> <p>The longer this gang goes unchecked, the more people will be at risk. And now, this gang is thinking about forcing honest community members to join, "or else". And much of the community has been intimidated into accepting this as "inevitable". They know full well how powerless they are.</p> <p>By the way, this gang isn't ficticious. It is the US military, and it's neighbors are all the other nations of the earth. The US has spent the vast majority of its history at war against someone. Yes, some of those wars were justifiable, such as World War II. (As catastrophic as the holocaust was, it would have been far worse had the US not stepped in). However, many of those wars were not, such as the various (and often genecidal) wars against various native american tribes.</p> <p>The wars in the Middle-East seem endless. This is largely by design, since the war profiteers - and their law-making puppets - know that there's little money to be made during times of peace. So, driven by a need for profit, they push for more wars, more occupations, more drone strikes, etc.</p> <p>I personally cannot stand the idea of some unsuspecting person being forced into a position where - should they refuse to join the military - they will face criminal charges. I also cannot stand the fact that the draft will probably be biased against black and brown communities, forcing racial-minority people to fight for a country "free" that systematically denies them the freedom to not murder people in other countries (and other basic freedoms as well). I believe the draft needs to be eliminated once and for all. If nothing else, a "free" country shold make military service a personal choice, not a legal obligation.</p>

9/5/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Service has no inherent value when it is forced. 2. The US can increase the desire of young Americans to serve when the US has a sound leadership for foreign policy. Currently the US has NO sound leadership. 3. The main barrier to participation is the lack of sound leadership. 4. To increase participation we must GET sound leadership. 5. The draft has NO place in our society and should be abandoned. The wealthier of us can easily find a way to avoid selective service. 6. Selective Service should be ended. 7. Mandatory service is anti-democratic and has no place in our society.
9/5/18	I am in favor of ending required selective service (draft) registration for men. I am opposed to requiring that women register. While selective service is practiced there should be a choice to register as a conscientious objector.
9/5/18	Draft the children of politicians and multinational corporations
9/5/18	We must end required selective service registration until every veteran has access to the resources they need for health and housing.
9/5/18	A mandatory service requirement for all Americans is not necessary, valuable or feasible unless we continue to invade unsuspecting countries, leaving their civilians in a much worse position than before. Ask George W. Bush & the 'Dick' about it, as it has been 17 years since they tried that political trick maneuver that will cost taxpayers trillions \$\$\$ before the smoke clears and our brave soldiers recover. It is a disgrace and a reflection of greed and corruption in government since we seem to invade countries with vast amounts of oil or precious metals. Trump is just as bad or worse due to his mental illnesses and ability to convince gullible voters for now.
9/5/18	I would say that the military draft is no longer necessary, and that the selective service system should be eliminated. I do not see serving in the military as a program where one is engaged in activities for the benefit ordinary Americans. We have been involved in too many foreign adventures at the behest of multinational corporations, which have left the vast majority of Americans less safe and swelled the ranks of those who hate us. True service to one's people has value; I would gladly sign up for a year or two rebuilding Puerto Rico's infrastructure, supplying better roads and septic service to people in Appalachia, or cleaning up a chemical spill or tutoring children. But service to the primary benefit of military contractors, petroleum CEOs and financiers isn't service; it's serf-ice. The draft has previously been implemented with an exemption for the wealthy and the connected. Even in the absence of the draft, the burden of military service is concentrated heavily on the economically disadvantaged, and I have little hope that it will become more fair.
9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men.</p> <p>Do not begin requiring that women register.</p> <p>If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	The US over-reaches in power grabs around the world where they get rid of democracy and build up dictatorships under the reigns of the two dynasties--the Bushes and the Clintons and others. We need to stop spending our money on war and start building up the US infrastructure which has been neglected. We need to built up community, democracy, and automatic voting registration and make it mandatory for all to vote.

	The military should be voluntary.
9/5/18	No more war on my behalf or using our bodies! You want war, sign up and take your kids with you. Good luck, especially when you come home maimed. All for the profit of a few already filthy rich warmongers!
9/5/18	I support ending men needing to register for the draft and not starting to require that women register If the draft is not end then at the very least there should be a choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service as an alternative, the pay must be equal to that of "military" service with benefits that are also equal.
9/5/18	Please end required selective service registration for men and do not begin requiring that women register. thank you
9/5/18	leave it as the successful voluntary military it is and has been
9/5/18	Abolish the draft!
9/5/18	1) End required selective service (draft) registration for men. 2) Do not begin requiring that women register. 3) If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. 4) If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/5/18	What is the problem with preparedness? !! It is also a good option for having a common denominator among the young people. We need the alternative choice to .military' service section also.
9/5/18	If any able-bodied person--regardless of gender or age--wishes to get a federally backed student loan, they should serve two years in the Peace Corps, Americorps or the military. Once they serve, they should be allowed free tuition at any public university.
9/5/18	The US should end the military draft registration. It doesn't serve any purpose in this day and age.
9/5/18	#2 need a professional highly trained military with the most highly educated people. Outstanding pay and benefits and the best health care . Family members should be taken care of. And good retirement benefits. If you're going risk your life for your country . We need to the right thing. The people running the country get good pay and benefits. They start the wars and rich people don't send their children off to die . Thank you. Arthur Noble.
9/5/18	End Selective Service registration.

9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service." This should include PeaceCorps, AmeriCorps/VISTA, TeachForAmerica or other non-profit service.</p>
9/5/18	<p>We need to end required selective service (draft) registration for men. We should not begin requiring that women register. If the draft is not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/5/18	<p>Until there is a reasonable relationship between the right to vote and electoral representation, the right to vote, the pattern which developed during the War in Vietnam and which continues to this day of: 1. Exploiting the military; and, 2. Denigrating the returning military veteran; and, 3. Granting preferential treatment by law and custom in employment, education, and otherwise will continue. As a result, men should refuse military service, especially mandatory military service, the military draft, until there is a reasonable relationship between military service and the right to vote, electoral representation. American men should refuse to be the military slaves of an entitled, hostile, and discriminatory female and feminist electoral majority. I served with the U.S. Army;4th I.D.; 2/8th Inf.; Republic of Vietnam 1969-1970.</p>
9/5/18	<p>Mandatory service is the opposite of freedom. Freedom means that service is voluntary.</p>
9/5/18	<p>Unless deferments are not tied to socio-economic status, and unless CO status is clearly made an available option, then the draft is morally bankrupt.</p>
9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service." Pay current military living wages. Take care of veterans and what was promised to them.</p>
9/5/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p> <p>Joining the military should be choice. It already is not exactly diverse, and a draft would likely predominately affect men of color.</p>
9/6/18	<p>The requirement that all male citizens register with the service is ridiculously outdated. There are many other ways to serve the nation aside from the military. Encouraging national service in domestic need areas such as education, housing and infrastructure is essential.</p>

9/6/18	We should end registration for selective service. It serves no purpose
9/6/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/6/18	End registration and dismantle the imperial war machine. It's not only evil, it isn't working.
9/6/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/6/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.
9/6/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/6/18	My answer to number 7 is a resounding NO. Why? Consider the alternatives: End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/6/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."

9/6/18	<p>"Service" isn't the issue. The nature of the service is the overriding issue. Since Vietnam (perhaps even since Korea) the misrepresentation of the purposes for military action have become more evident. Most people I talk to join the military for the benefits - money for education, pension, training in some skill they believe will enhance their employment opportunities, and so on. Few say much of anything about service to the country. Those who do say something about issues like national security seem to unsure what that means. When the elective political world is so fractured and influenced primarily by narrow interests focused on protection and enhancement of financial position it is difficult to understand just what the "public" in Public Service means. The costs of education have put many (most) into a form of debtor's prison - the "public realm" has failed or been subverted in that regard, so why serve? Service does have an inherent value if the societal context within which the service given is supportive of the person's values and basic needs. Service, in that case, is a form or gratitude and a contribution to the security of the support systems. It is not lack of gratitude that leads to decline of desire to serve, it is a decline of systems (economic, political, community, family, ...) to provide effective support for the interests of the folks who you are asking to serve those very systems. Increase the desire of U. S. residents, especially young residents, to serve by not exploiting their lives. For example reasonable costs for education, or, to be starry eyed, free quality education (not just schooling measured by test scores) would supply a basic need and the type of gratitude that would encourage public service. Without natural gratitude the U. S. will have to rely on coercion of one sort or another (e.g. a draft) to force people to perform the tasks that would otherwise fall under public service. However, I think mandatory service of any sort will "backfire" and lead to even more of the type of problems you are trying to solve with this query.</p>
9/6/18	<p>No draft, allow people to object to the military for moral and religious reasons. The US is involved in so many wars. Stop interfering with other nations!</p>
9/6/18	<p>Only community service, i.e. non-military, should be compulsory for teenagers of both sexes.</p>
9/6/18	<p>Please end required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register.</p> <p>If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/6/18	<p>End the draft. There are more ways to serve the country than just the military. At a minimum, allow young people to register as conscientious objectors.</p>
9/6/18	<p>The universal draft stops crazy wars</p>
9/6/18	<p>Here are my thoughts on this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service." <p>Dan Morgan </p>

9/6/18	Well I had an older brother in Vietnam. I was about 5 or so when he came home, he was injured and captured. When he came home he was really really, messed up. I watched him try to kill my dad in a drunken rage, he thought he was back out in the jungles of Asia. I am not able to send my sons or daughters out to fight another mans war of death and hate. I will not stand by and let this happen. I do respect and honor our vets and soldiers who have put there lives in the way of being killed. But I also know what war does to a person, I watch my brother go through hell. He has now passed away about 2 years ago from a lot of different things that was brought on by agent orange. So thank you For listening.
9/6/18	Well I had an older brother in Vietnam. I was about 5 or so when he came home, he was injured and captured. When he came home he was really really, messed up. I watched him try to kill my dad in a drunken rage, he thought he was back out in the jungles of Asia. I am not able to send my sons or daughters out to fight another mans war of death and hate. I will not stand by and let this happen. I do respect and honor our vets and soldiers who have put there lives in the way of being killed. But I also know what war does to a person, I watch my brother go through hell. He has now passed away about 2 years ago from a lot of different things that was brought on by agent orange. So thank you For listening.
9/6/18	I think enlistees must receive a salary and benefits which support a decent life. Assist lower ranking enrollees with assistance in finding housing close enough to grocery stores/commissary, and healthcare. I think officers do fairly well, however, enlisted people are screwed. A reasonable salary for all enlisted people will help drawn them to the military.
9/6/18	I would like to see the draft abolished. If not abolished, offer a path for conscientious objectors to register also. And be sure the pay and benefits for conscientious objectors equals those of those in military service.
9/6/18	The draft registration requirement should be abolished. We have a robust military, with the ranks supplied almost exclusively by volunteers. That has worked fine recently.
9/6/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/6/18	Spiritual or religious exception to the draft is imperative if the United States is to have a constitution that is interpreted for any real democracy whatsoever. It already takes over \$3,000,000.00 just to run for office (that's minimum), and a person's vote means nothing to the actual election. WHERE IS DEMOCRACY?! Dialogue sure saves on bullets and killing children and young men and women. Will this murderous country ever awaken from it's self-appointed entitlement, taking and hate? No draft. No hate. No weapons. No killing. No youth allowed in any public safety endeavors. No youth allowed in any military endeavors. TEACH SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS.
9/6/18	We must end Selective Service drafting for all men. We also need to prevent women from being included in any Selective Service. This is the only way forward to a world of peace, a world beyond unnecessary warfare. If not, then we must allow for the option of registering as a conscientious objector. Many people, including myself, are opposed to military involvement as we are spiritually and morally opposed to acts of militarism and warfare.
9/6/18	I believe that there should be compulsive military service for all adults when they hit age 18. If they choose conscientious objection, they should be paid the same as their counterparts in the military. If not, then do away with any registration.

9/6/18	I served in the USAF for eight years as an AP and a Drill Instructor. There should be other ways to serve our country without going to some endless war. We need to pull our military men and women back home and focus on rebuilding our country and the countries that we have destroyed so our arms makers could grow rich. We have had too many wars already that never should have started. We are not the rulers of the world. Let's stop the killing and do something that makes sense for once. Thank you. Robert Ogden, Hohenwald, TN
9/6/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/6/18	As the mother of a teenage boy, I urge the US government to end the mandatory selective service registration for men and to not begin selective service registration for women. If the government does not end selective service, I strongly recommend an option to register as a conscientious objector. If there must be a non-military service, the pay and benefits must be at least equal to those of military service.
9/6/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/6/18	Either abolish selective service or implement a plan whereby all serve. In time of co-ed volunteer army, why are only men forced to sign. Abolish it.
9/6/18	Cut back on privatization of the military. It has gone from taking care of showers and food to guarding diplomats to god knows what. Leave it to the USA to privatize and profit off of anything they can get away with. Bring back the draft if war is declared. No more occupations or regime change wars. Make Congress & President declare war if we are going to use military force.
9/6/18	Agree that no one should be forced to enter the military
9/6/18	Yes, bring back the draft. Too many young people are sitting on their butts at their grandparents house. The draft will make them GROW UP
9/6/18	I think national service is a good thing providing it is not military service. However, non-military national service, must have pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/6/18	A mandatory service for all citizens is neither necessary, valuable nor an ethical American value. This is not a constitutional requirement. The military draft is not necessary for national security. National security depends more on negotiations for peaceful solutions than on military actions, particularly intrusive attacks on sovereign nations.

9/6/18	I believe that all 18 to 24 year olds in our country should have a mandated year of non-military service in a field of their choice (and for some this might include being in a defensive (hopefully not offensive) military. This service could range from childcare to building to food growing to clean-ups, to running summer camp programs, to teaching, to environmental work, to working in the inner city, to clean up, to many other services young people can provide. They should be paid the same as the military is paid and have the same benefits, such as health care, money for college, etc. I feel this would build the character of our young people and provide them with experiences they would not ordinarily have. It could again be called the PEACE CORPS and could also be international as well as at home.
9/6/18	The best way to increase national security is to (#1) END the NSA's policy of adding "back doors" within the internet, (#2) END American sponsored regime changes which creates enemies of the state in mass, (#3) STOP employing and arming terrorists, (#4) work on BEHALF of the American people, rather than USE them. Americans would be your best defense if government did not intentionally divide them, pitting them against each other.
9/6/18	We don't need the draft, or any other types of conscription that affects our young people. When do we substitute a commitment to helping instead of killing?
9/6/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/6/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/6/18	There shouldn't be a draft if there is it should only apply to Politicians children since Politicians are the ones who start wars , I lost my only child in 2003 because we can't even control our own gun laws here , we have absolutely no business trying to run other countries business, no way in hell will I allow my adopted grandchildren to be drafted to fight another Politicians war for profit to the Giant Corporations bank accounts
9/6/18	No draft. Stop funding the military so obnoxiously more than life saving programs and health care.
9/6/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service"
9/6/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/6/18	If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.

9/6/18	There is no reason for mandatory conscription, end the draft. Should the draft be reinstated it should include women. Service to the country should include living wage, retirement benefits, health benefits, and reintegration to community.
9/6/18	<p>Answers to questions posed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes the country can benefit from asking all to serve their country. 2. If service is not only military service and if the missions, military and otherwise, are transparent and just there will be a desire to serve. 3. Barriers include the following: Missions that are not just and which are not transparent, participants not treated with respect and especially if treatment is discriminatory, opportunities lost while in service. 4. Offer meaning to the lives that are offered in service. 5. It is likely a necessary component and so it is currently kept in the hip pocket of the country. It has no real impact in its present state and yet it is a veiled threat to young men. Unfortunately the population doesn't share a stake in decisions made about national security. This is not a good situation in a government that is of, by and for the people. 6. Absolutely. The current system has no meaning. 7. I believe service for all Americans could be valuable and feasible. If it is useful it also does not need to be mandatory.
9/6/18	<p>Please eliminate the draft system completely!!!</p> <p>(If America were ever attacked then there would be plenty of volunteers. All the possibility of a draft does is help allow corrupt politicians to get us involved in overseas conflicts that simply make things worse, not better.)</p>
9/6/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men.</p> <p>Do not begin requiring that women register.</p> <p>If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/6/18	<p>I believe that the United States should end required selective service (draft) registration for men and should not begin requiring that women register.</p> <p>If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector, and if there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/6/18	<p>As a retired US Air Force Master Sergeant, I highly recommend the US Selective Service begin registering eligible women at the age of 18. They have already demonstrated their ability to perform admirably in combat zones. There are no longer any legitimate reasons exempting women from the draft. Furthermore, the government should implement a compulsory military service or federal service commitment of two years. This would give young people more opportunities to explore after high school graduation. The two year commitment would provide job training, certified skills and much needed work experience; preparing them for entry into mainstream job market. Additionally, it would help transition young people leaving home, but still under some adult supervision. Too many of today's youth are ill-prepared to make the move into the "real world" on their own.</p>

9/6/18	I am opposed to the draft in the US. 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?Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security?Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? Thank you.
9/6/18	-End required selective service (draft) registration for men. -Do not begin requiring that women register. -If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. -If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/6/18	Please end selective service NOW ! We do not need to have a huge army ! We need to get out of the rest of the world . NO WW3 !! A draft is a war mongers dream come true .
9/6/18	I'm writing to ask the commission to end required selective service registration. Thanks for considering my comment
9/6/18	As an opportunity to share these thoughts, it is appreciative if the United States abolish the selective service draft registration. Alongside this, men and women should not be required to register. Yes, this proposal may not be satisfied sooner but at least provide the permission to allow civilians the decision of registering as a conscientious objector. In this way, individuals should voice their views on important circumstances that may involve military service. Should there be non-military service, it is best to have payment and benefits proportional to those of military service. These proposals stem from notions of the absence of war in international politics. The threat of Nuclear War has resurfaced since the Cold War. It will be beneficial for humanity if no wars were to drive foreign policies among the most powerful nations, preventing the loss of many lives soldiers and civilians.
9/6/18	AND....abolish all access by the U.S. Military to children's school registration information.
9/6/18	I do not believe that the US should require selective service registration for either men or women. If the US does not end selective service registration, conscientious objection should always be an option. Conscientious objectors who do non-military service should receive the same benefits and their military counterparts.
9/6/18	On the subject of conscription, there is a severe problem with it, from a legal perspective. It's called "involuntary servitude" and also known as slavery. You can't force someone to work in a field, and expect quality results, for one. For two, it's morally reprehensible. Three, it's unnecessary, as the US has not been attacked by a foreign military since 1941, and has not been invaded by a foreign military since the early 1800's. We won't tolerate being invaded, and would fight tooth and nail against any who would try, much like those who live in the countries we've invaded with fervent foolishness for the last 70 years. Foreign policy should be absolutely focused on trade, rather than war-making. War was not what our founders had in mind. So much about modern foreign policy is so backwards from what was intended by our founders that it is baffling that we continue to beat our heads against the same old walls, and wonder why nothing is getting better. They left the instructions for the country, to be plainly understood, and yet here we are, going on 70 years of meddling in the middle east, at an escalating mountain of expense to the taxpayers of this country.

	Read, for the love of all that is holy, READ.
9/6/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/6/18	No draft. Especially since service members are never given the package of benefits they are promised and are not given basic/adequate health care.
9/6/18	Please end required selective service (draft) registration for men and don't start this for women. Let people choose if they want to enlist.
9/6/18	The U.S.A. should never rely on drafting people to become soldiers. We should ALWAYS have an all volunteer military force. Still requiring males to register for a draft that hasn't happened for over 40 years now is a waste of the country's money. Eliminate the Draft Boards and everything associated with them.
9/6/18	There should be no mandatory service requirement. Only voluntary participation at a decent wage level. Service to ones country is noble but only if it serves the good of all. No-one wants to serve and put their lives at risk for the interests of corrupt politicians and corporations at the expense of decent hardworking Americans.
9/6/18	The U.S.A. Military should be used as a Peace Keeping Force, NOT an aggressive, private army subject to the whims of corporate-owned politicians as is currently the case. As such, all young people should serve a 6 month term after high-school graduation.
9/6/18	Since our nation seems intent on war, war, and more war, we can no longer assure service men and women that they are fighting to protect the homeland. Therefore, only volunteers should be accepted into military service and all registering of Americans should stop.
9/6/18	End our endless wars and war economy. End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/6/18	Registration for the military should be a choice not a mandate.

9/6/18	There is NO reason for US to be attacking & murdering people around the globe, whether it's a war, police action or abusing immigrants!!! We Have ENOUGH problems domestically that we Should be taking care of before we bully the world! With chumptrump letting Putin have a navy in the Mediterranean, we Should be speaking Out about that!!! What a lame duck our nation has become since he came into the office!!! We Should be fighting for climate, natures flora & fauna, pollution & pro profit prisons, our youth & elderly; but instead we have to dance to that morons' & republicans' B.S.!!! It Has to STOP!!!
9/6/18	We should end the required selective service registration. Three points. First, forcing Americans to do anything results in lack luster performance and resentment. The best candidates are those that are eager and willing. Since the U.S. is supposed to value freedom above all else it is puzzling that there's a law that flies right in the face of that freedom. It actually mocks it. Second, I know this sounds like a paranoid stretch but,continuing this program leaves a possible weak point for the U.S. to be manipulated or influenced by military police states like israel. They enjoy being a police state and love having their military paid for by American tax payers. They make 'service' mandatory in order to have citizenship, basically forcing people to kill the native population or at least harm and abuse them for the religious 'honor' of being an israeli. They love to influence our policies and I would expect them to lobby so we adopt the same requirement. Third, In the 21st century there can be little need for maintaining as large force as in the past. Everything else is being downsized, I think it's long overdue for the military.
9/6/18	As a service volunteer for more than 20 years, I am very much in favor of universal service after high school. The draftees who serve in civilian or military jobs should be equally supported.
9/6/18	Conscientious objection should be a valid choice, as should non-military forms of service to the country (with pay equal to the military). Those who choose to be CO's should be able to state as their reason, "Deception by the US government, in the form of withheld information, half-truths, disinformation, or outright lies." (I.e. past false flag events precipitating major wars & conflicts.)
9/6/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/6/18	- End required selective service (draft) registration for men. - Do not begin requiring that women register. - If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. - If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/6/18	I feel we have participated in too many senseless wars. It is time to evaluate our decision before we get involved in more war. I do not believe we need anymore the draft. The whole world has a majority of families desperate for peace. Let's use our diplomatic ability to find peaceful agreement. It is very sad to see so many

	children dead or maimed because of armed conflicts. They never asked to be brought to this world. We must act responsibly and protect them. Thank you.
9/6/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/6/18	[answers numerically correlated....] 1. Military "service" has NO inherent value. It focuses on domination and control of others. 2. STOP trying to dominate the rest of the world by physical-economic-subversive force. 3. Human dignity and compassion for others. 4. "Public Security" would be better served by HELPING others...NOT by KILLING them. 5. The "draft" or "vollunter" military MUST be focused on HELPING others...not focused on KILLING others. 6. The Selective service should be abolished. 7. No.
9/6/18	I believe that we as Americans should serve for the betterment of all of us as a nation, but I don't think that the service should be militaristic in nature. I think the requirement to sign up for selective service should be removed, and if non-military service takes its place, that it be reimbursed at the same rate as military service.
9/6/18	Citizens should be allowed to register for the selective service as conscientious objectors.

9/6/18	<p>I gather that the U.S. National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service is accepting comments until September 30th. PLEASE:</p> <p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men.</p> <p>Do not begin requiring that women register.</p> <p>If the draft is not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military service.</p> <p>We must do what we can to end the scourge of war. War is hell -- literally.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
9/6/18	<p>Please consider the following regarding The Selective Service:</p> <p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men.</p> <p>Do not begin requiring that women register.</p> <p>If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/6/18	<p>Allow people to register as conscientious objectors</p>
9/6/18	<p>End Selective Service registration.</p>
9/6/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men.</p> <p>Do not begin requiring that women register.</p> <p>If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/6/18	<p>Yes. End the draft registration for noth men and women</p>
9/6/18	<p>All, male and female, should register and serve at least one year. As in many European countries.</p> <p>We are a pampered society. National service. Not necessarily military service. That is one option.</p>

9/6/18	All, male and female, should register and serve at least one year. As in many European countries. We are a pampered society. National service. Not necessarily military service. That is one option.
9/6/18	No more war. No draft. No registration for anyone. A civilized people settle their differences with words, not guns.
9/6/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. End required selective service (draft) registration for men. 2. Do not begin requiring that women register. 3. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. 4. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/6/18	<p>Please consider abolishing the requirement to register for the selective service. At the least, don't expand it to women. And finally, as a matter of fairness, please permit a conscientious objector option. Any duties performed as a conscientious objector should be paid at the same rate as granted to other service personnel.</p> <p>A civilian corps would also be a good idea--devoted to useful civilian needs, such as improving our infrastructure and providing social services.</p>
9/6/18	The military draft is no longer necessary and should be abolished for males; nor should it be implemented for females. However, a non-military mandatory service requirement with pay for all Americans could be a good plan to promote a better understanding of "giving back to your country".
9/6/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1).End required selective service (draft) registration for men. 2).Do not begin requiring that women register. 3).If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. 4).If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/6/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men.</p> <p>Do not begin requiring that women register.</p> <p>If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/6/18	<p>History has proven time and again that peace and diplomacy are the only approaches that lead to long term success and prosperity for all of America's interests. I request the following;</p> <p>We must end required selective service (draft) registration for men.</p> <p>Do not begin requiring that women register.</p> <p>If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p> <p>Thank you, Matt Genaze, Cambridge, MA</p>

9/6/18	Hi , I believe military draft would be a way for all young people to think about war and consequences. Especially public service should be an option and the pay should be the same as the draft pay.
9/6/18	<p>Please end required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/6/18	<p>In this age of endless wars -- most of which have not been confirmed by Congress, but through executive action-- that are bankrupting our country, it is needful to focus on diplomacy and PEACE with our neighbors, rather than supporting global corporate colonialism abroad. This use of our military is NOT representative of the people of the United States, and is destroying our peaceful, secure, and confident way of life as the military budget siphons off over 40% of the people's hard earned taxes (the corporations pay very little, and pay their workers poorly), while corporations are also subsidized with billions of welfare perks by the government--billions that could pay for Medicare for all, free college tuition, better salaries for our civil servants, student loan forgiveness, rehabilitation of the prison system, stop raiding the funds of Social Security and Medicare and make sure these programs are solvent into the future to care for our disabled, working poor, and senior citizens who have spent much of their lives in service to this country.</p> <p>First, Audit the Pentagon, and get rid of the lobbyists, waste and weapons we don't need as we pursue unilateral peace and non-proliferation (and destruction) of global nuclear weapons.</p> <p>Fully fund Diplomacy, re-habilitate the STate Department to fulfill its role for true and valid peacemaking.</p> <p>Establish a military with the priority of saving lives--not killing people or militarizing our police forces.</p> <p>RE: the Selective Service:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.End required selective service (draft) registration for men. 2.Do not begin requiring that women register. 3.If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. 4.If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service." <p>Thank you for your time and consideration. Katherine Sogolow, PhD. Sarasota, FL</p>
9/6/18	no to the draft!
9/6/18	There needs to be non-military service. Our "defense" budget is WAY TO BIG,

9/6/18	<p>End required selective service registration. Note how it turned out the last time the draft was used. People who didn't want to be soldiers didn't follow orders anyway. To attract quality soldiers, increase pay. Plenty of money available for that in the excessive Defense Budget. We should be able to avoid many of the "wars" like The Gulf and Grenada that we engaged in in the past.</p> <p>I didn't join the service because I was concerned about the personality change I saw in those who joined and because people have to commit to a specific length of duty. What if it was not for me and I wanted to quit? Yes I talked to a recruiter when I was unemployed.</p>
9/6/18	<p>Public service can do some good, but it loses its merit if mandatory.</p> <p>Military service should not be mandatory, forcing it goes against the idea of freedom.</p>
9/6/18	<p>I believe there should be an end on required selective service (draft) registration for men.</p> <p>Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/6/18	<p>Instead of military service, I think we should have a mandatory year of public service for all our young people. This could be at home or abroad and would do more to create peace than any kind of military service.</p>
9/6/18	<p>I would love to see a service requirement (not necessarily military) to instill the idea of our young adults doing good for the country. It works well in other countries, why not here?</p> <p>When students are doing their service requirement, they should have plenty of opportunity to see what is available, discover what they are good at, etc.</p> <p>Selective service should become ungendered and then abolished. ORDER IS IMPORTANT. The last selective service law on the books should require both men AND WOMEN of a certain age to sign up. If we feel it is unnecessary, especially with a service program in place, ONLY THEN it is OK to abolish it.</p> <p>If we were to abolish it now, and then we end up in a shooting war and we need to have a draft, the existing system will be restarted with NO will by most of the population to make it ungendered.</p> <p>If we think that it being gendered is wrong (and obviously I do), get rid of its gendered-ness when it isn't under duress and only then abolish it or begin turning into a more general service program.</p> <p>The more diverse our military, the more effective it is. Remember the codetalkers of WW2.</p>
9/6/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. End required selective service (draft) registration for men. 2. Do not begin requiring that women register. 3. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. 4. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."

9/6/18	<p>I began my adult life as a staunch supporter of my government’s actions abroad, wars included. But 35 years ago I lived and worked in Guatemala and watched in horror as my country supported and advised the massacre and annihilation of over 500 Indigenous villages, over 200,000 dead and 6,000 disappeared Guatemalan citizens. I began to examine and question US war and have become very aware US wars have absolutely nothing to do with the safety of ordinary US citizens like myself. Rather, our US wars and US support of wars, protects the interests of corporations in accessing and controlling resources in countries all over the planet. And, being that our largest US export is weapons of war, our country has developed an economic dependency on developing, producing and selling weapons of war. In other words, our country, the United States of America is economically married to war and selling weapons of war and the only persons who actually benefit from this are the obscenely wealthy.</p> <p>However, our US youth, idealistic as are all youth, only know the romantic lies about war, the nobility of dying, of giving their young lives to “make America safe and secure”. Our young people do not yet have the life experiences I have and have not yet learned the political and economic ramifications of the wars they so generously volunteer to fight. However, and you cannot deny this, a vast majority of our youth return from war disillusioned and even suicidal because they have seen the truth, and because they have perpetrated horror against innocent people.</p> <p>For the above reasons I oppose the required selective service registration of young men in the US. I oppose efforts to require registrstion of young women in the US. I do support efforts to allow for registration in the US as a conscientious objector. And I demand that should such registration be allowed that financial compensation equal that of those employed in killing.</p> <p>The arc of history demands that our country, the USA, move away from the business of war. Yes, currently we are the most powerful and most wealthy empire that has ever dominated the earth. But no empire lasts forever. All empires fall, and the arc of history shows that empires fall through arrogance, bloated self importance, and overreaching economically and militarily - that is bankrupting their own resources.</p> <p>It is time that our country, the USA, make wise decisions about our future. It is time for us to step out of the business of war, our wars that benefit only the obscenely wealthy. Mive away from the business of war while we can freely make the decision, rather than have it forced upon us. Move away from the business of war while we can still do so with honor.</p>
9/6/18	If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector

9/6/18	<p>I am a Vietnam Veteran and I was drafted while having a college education. Based on my military experience, and witnessing the vagaries and short comings of an all voluntary military], I strongly believe we should have a broad, universal, national draft. Where our younger people would be required to serve at least two years active duty to their country. A universal draft would give them an opportunity to serve in a number of social and military organizations such as the Peace Court, a Civilian Conservation Corp, Welfare Agencies, Navy, Army etc.</p> <p>My reasoning is partially based on a strictly military draft creates a limited environment where you do not have a broader background of inductees who can give the military more intellectual and cultural depth. And, this in turn, can degrade the quality, objectivity and morality of important military decisions and operations.</p> <p>I sincerely believe that all younger Americans, both male and female, should stand up and serve the country that has given them so much. This is turn could provide them with more comprehensive and significant job and career skills which would make them more productive and successful throughout their lives.</p>
9/6/18	<p>Eliminate draft signup requirements , period! War is obsolete , stupid and puts war profits in the pockets of greedy billionaires . WAR IS NOT THE WAY TO WORLD PEACE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!</p>
9/6/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. End required selective service (draft) registration for men. 2. Do not begin requiring that women register. 3. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. 4. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/6/18	<p>It is wrong to raid the youth of a nation to play the games of the rich and powerful! Make the politicians put on arms and fight it out on their own.</p>

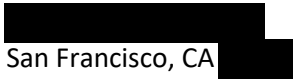

9/6/18	<p>1. Service to one's country does have inherent value but there must be a choice involved concerning how to serve one's country. I believe President Kennedy's programs of the Peace Corps and Vista Volunteers were great examples of service. New programs oriented to serving the disenfranchised in the US should be an active alternative for anyone who chooses not to support war efforts. Also, similar to Roosevelt's CCC and WPA programs, there should be active programs for supporting our infrastructure and parks, etc. as an alternative service to war or supporting militarism. The funding of such programs must come from corporation taxes, companies in the US who avoid hiring US citizens; who hoard money in places like the Cayman Islands; the military budget and from taxes on the wealthiest citizens in the US.</p> <p>2. Inspire them with great leaders. Incentivise them with great ideas and include stipends like forgiveness of school loan debts and funding for college/training school funds.</p> <p>3. War is evil, everyone knows it, especially our service men and women. People no longer want to participate in wars fought to enrich corporations, secure trade hegemony or wealthy people's interests. America's dishonesty about our participation in wars and the lies told through propaganda campaigns are the greatest barrier to aligning oneself with government activities.</p> <p>4. Be honest about the complexity of the reasons for US involvement. Stop lying to the American people. Don't dehumanize the enemy. Be honest about the human toll of war and the civilian death counts. Don't use euphemisms like "collateral damage." Cut out the propaganda. Offer alternatives in the military to killing. Use the military for more humanitarian service and missions.</p> <p>5. No. The draft must permanently be abolished. Any compulsion used to enlist people against their will is an inherent violation of free speech and one's right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Criminalizing people who refuse the draft is fascism.</p> <p>6. Yes. We should reinstate the box on one's draft registration that allows them to identify as a conscientious objector (CO) and respect those decisions. Also, military recruiters should not be given the names of high school students unless the students choose to solicit them.</p> <p>7. No. Most of us already by defacto, support all government actions implicitly by our taxes. It is even more unfair to require our blood and lineage in causes we do not support. If America's leaders can't inspire service among our young people through honest talk, there is a problem with American leadership, not the people themselves.</p>
9/6/18	<p>Mandatory service is not feasible because whether or not an activity is "service" is a subjective judgement and a matter of disagreement. It certainly should not be limited to service in the military. It's also subject to avoidance by individuals with power and money.</p> <p>Efforts to administer the selective service would be better served by publicizing and offering incentives for those with skills in areas experiencing shortages.</p>
9/6/18	<p>I am submitting the following comments to express my strong disagreement with any form of draft into the US military. I strongly support the following actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) End required selective service (draft) registration for men. 2) Do not begin requiring that women register. 3) If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. 4) If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."

9/6/18	<p>Greetings. I trust that you are well.</p> <p>As a follower of Jesus I am absolutely opposed to humans killing other humans for any reasons. Period. Jesus teaches us to love everyone unconditionally, most especially those who would do evil to us. Hence, I oppose requiring people to serve in branches of the military. I supported my position during the war in Southeast Asia by refusing induction into the Army when I was drafted. Thus, I served time behind bars awaiting my trial, along with serving time under house arrest. I faced five years imprisonment. Eventually, I was acquitted.</p> <p>However, within a pluralistic society the matter of military service is complex. Many people are not followers of Jesus's call to absolute non-violent peacemaking. If our nation believes in war-making then there must be a way to create a military. A volunteer military creates dynamics that serve the interests of racism, classism, and many times sexism, as the needs of militarism and post-industrial era colonialism are met. What should we do to serve the interests of egalitarianism?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a selective service system that requires ALL physically and mentally able citizen youth so be enrolled: youth citizens of ALL races, youth of ALL economic classes, youth who are males, females, cross-gender, homosexual and lesbian, and the like. 2. Create a selective service system that necessarily allows ALL citizen youth to choose to serve civic duties within AND outside of the military in non-violence related jobs, that is, jobs that do not perpetuate and perpetrate the interests of the global military-industrial-agribusiness complex. The non-violence related jobs outside of the military must pay equal to commensurate knowledge and skills sets jobs within the military. Required time for serving civic duty must be equal to required service time in the military. 3. Selective service files might be used and invoked ONLY if a war has been declared by both the US House of Representatives and the US Senate that has treaty making powers. The US President must not be allowed to declare war (and thus use the selective service files and powers) without a three-fourths majority permission from both the House and Senate. 4. Selective service "draft boards" must include lawyers, and religious leaders from ALL pertinent religions to the youth citizens at hand. The religion leaders must in all instances represent both pacifist and non-pacifist faith and belief systems. 5. Within the selective service laws military recruiters MUST NOT be allowed to recruit within public schools. <p>Of course a selective service set of civic duty system's laws is much more complex than described herein. However, the above suggestions will serve to guide the creation of a system committed to both the letter of the laws suggested, and the spirit of the laws suggested. In the 1960s the draft laws were some of the most complex of US laws.</p> <p>Respectfully, Charlie Garriott, Ph.D. Education</p>
9/6/18	Eliminate Selective Service registration.
9/6/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men, do not begin it for women; and, do not require compulsive non-military service of any kind for our young people.</p> <p>Young people need to be allowed to grow up, stretch their wings and find their bliss in life. They do not need to be psychologically abused in military training, die in combat, or become severely wounded. They do not need to live with a life time of guilt because they have been trained into killing or wounding others.</p> <p>You do not need the draft because, sadly for you, you have created drone killing machines. You have ensured that children and young people in the</p>

	<p>countries you have targeted for your own sinful gain do not live to grow into adult hood. To quote something like was said at the McCarthy debacle of the fifties, "Do you not have at long last any shame" for all of the blood on your hands?</p>
9/6/18	If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/6/18	Please end the military draft. If it can't be ended, please let conscientious objectors register as such.
9/6/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I request that you end required selective service (draft) registration for men. 2. I request that you not begin requiring that women register. 3. If the draft is not ended, I request that you allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. 4. If there must be non-military service, I request that you make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/6/18	<p>I strongly support the government working to provide ways to serve our population that are alternatives to military options. Options like Americorps and Peace Corps have been useful.</p> <p>I would specifically like to respond to # 6- modifications to the selective service system. Currently the Selective Service Registration process offers no opportunity to register as a conscientious objector. This creates an ethical dilemma for young men who are COs but feel coerced to participate in the process. I strongly advocate that this option be added to the registration process.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
9/6/18	<p>I am writing to express my strong belief that the U.S. should end required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. I have had to do so myself (as a Physician), by registering my beliefs without a formal way to do that on the government forms. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service." If not, it amounts to UNION BUSTING! and could potentially harm the rights workers have fought so hard to earn. Thank you for your kind consideration, Sharon Paltin, M.D.</p>
9/6/18	No young man or woman should ever have to die for corporate interests; therefore, it is a moral imperative to abolish the draft.
9/6/18	Just put an end to an archaic system that is of no use but the government in order to keep tabs on our young men .

9/6/18	<p>"How far can you go without destroying from within what you are trying to defend from without?" --Dwight D. Eisenhower</p> <p>"War settles nothing." --Dwight D. Eisenhower</p> <p>We will bankrupt ourselves in the vain search for absolute security." --Dwight D. Eisenhower</p> <p>"I think that people want peace so much that one of these days government had better get out of their way and let them have it. --Dwight D. Eisenhower</p>
9/6/18	<p>No one should be forced into military service, male or female. Please end the draft.</p> <p>If you will not end the draft, please at least make provisions for conscientious objectors. Some people don't believe in killing and war, and should not be punished for their peacefulness. If you require non-military service, make sure the pay and benefits are the same as military service, or you'll end up punishing peaceful people by a more roundabout method.</p>
9/6/18	<p>I would like to see the end of selective service registration for men. If not, I hope that you do not begin having women register either and I hope that you will begin to allow the choice of conscientious objector. Thank you.</p>
9/6/18	<p>I would like to see selective service registration for men discontinued. I do not want to begin requiring that women register. If selective service registration continues, people should be allowed the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service." Thank you!</p>
9/6/18	<p>I question those who are preparing for war when they dodged the draft and never sacrificed their lifestyle to serve their countryWe should spend all our time,energy and funds in eliminating war.</p>
9/6/18	<p>Service in response to a time of need is an honor every citizen should embrace. But an institutionalized lottery for the purposes of sending young people into meaningless wars for protection of quasi-colonial corporate pillaging of another nation's natural resources isn't that need! NO MANDATORY MILITARY DRAFT TO PROPAGATE THE CYCLE OF ENDLESS WAR!</p>
9/6/18	<p>The draft must be ended, period. No one should be forced to fight in a war/join the military against their will. People are not interested in fighting in wars to come back home and receive little to know help or services. War leaves many veterans with PTSD, various mental or physical issues homeless and at risk of suicide.</p>

9/6/18	<p>Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? – No, it doesn't because those who go into the military are largely low-income prey hounded by recruiters.</p> <p>How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? – By not overthrowing legitimate governments for oil? By not forcing regime change because the president has a small dick? By not giving corporations unlimited power, disenfranchising the youth unnecessary college debt, and by providing well-paying adequate employment on a base level?</p> <p>What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? –Being constantly disappointed in this country.</p> <p>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? – This I'm not sure entirely about, but maybe addressing the homeless vet problem? HERE'S WHERE YOU CAN END UP IF YOU SERVE! HOMELESS!! Not a great selling point, not is the sexual assault rate for female members.</p> <p>Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? –HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA. No. Ground wars aren't the norm anymore, and if that's your option, you're sending people to die for some cause that probably not necessary–IE Iraq and Afghanistan.</p> <p>Are modifications to the selective service system needed? –Probably. I didn't like being forced to sign up, and since the younger generations are so fucked mentally, it wouldn't be good to force more stress on the because some micro-dicked imbecile wants to pick a fight with another country.</p> <p>Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? – NO. See my above answers.</p>
9/6/18	No draft ever again!
9/6/18	I believe that we should follow God's commands to "love they neighbor" and "do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Simply put, we should not try to bomb our neighbor and his country into tiny bits for sake of taking his land or mineral/oil resources, etc. Therefore, I believe that we should put an end to required selective service (draft) registration for men, and we should not begin requiring that women register. If you will not end draft registration, then you must allow for those who do not believe in killing their fellow human beings to register as conscientious objectors.
9/6/18	<p>The USA has been bombing the world for decades, has it made the USA safer? No. Bombing for peace is like having sex for virginity. We all know the USA is not "bringing democracy" to other countries; we know that war is a lucrative business for the military-industrial complex, we aren't buying the propaganda.</p>

9/6/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/6/18	<p>If we all followed president bone spurs we wouldn't have any military.instead of the draft as I recall it in case of a major conflict I know there enough patriots to fill the void instead.Just like world one and two.so I think it's unnecessary to have a draft.</p>
9/6/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/6/18	<p>A military draft is fundamentally at odds with the core American value of personal freedom. The selective service system should be dismantled.</p> <p>Martin MacKerel  San Francisco, CA </p>

9/6/18	<p>I did military, draft & vets counseling from the Viet Nam thru Gulf War eras. I'm totally opposed to any kind of conscription, except for that group of people who believe the draft is just what we need. Draft them. They'd make great recruits - wouldn't cause any trouble. Even if they're fat & middle aged, they can still push the buttons to do their jobs.</p> <p>No, I do not believe that "service" has inherent value. This is simply the state using its citizens as cannon fodder. The propaganda is everywhere to how it will make your character or whatever, blah blah. Whether men (or potentially women) are either drafted or propagandized into enlisting, the same end results. Militarization is not the answer to the world's problems.</p> <p>Virtually all the modern western democracies have eliminated conscription. It constitutes human trafficking of the worst kind. I do not believe that governments have the right to order their citizens to kill and/or die. The CO exception is the minimum necessary to respect the individual, but this option is narrowly defined and not available to all.</p> <p>I also oppose conscription for any "national service," which is simply a social control tool to ready people for the assumption that their lives belong to the state.</p> <p>I have seen the human damage done by the draft, as well as the other mechanisms for driving young people into the military, and selling it as the answer to all one's problems. Giving carte blanche to a government for its illegal, criminal wars is barbaric.</p>
9/6/18	Include the option of registering as conscientious objector if requirement of registration is maintained.
9/6/18	1. Not at the moment, it's a huge negative. 2. Stop fighting Israels stupid dirty wars in the middle east. 3. None, that's not the problem. 4. See answer to 2 above, but even more so. 5. Of course not, don't be ridiculous. 6. Yes, its fucking stupid and the US would only humiliate itself if it ever tries to use it, so it should go away. 7. No
9/6/18	I believe that selective service should be ended rather than expanded to make women register as well. Our country is safer when the only people serving in the military are people who want to be there. Men, women, and people who identify as neither are only going to be good soldiers, sailors, pilots, or marines if they chose to join up. Those who are forced into service are more likely to be a danger to themselves, their team and their country. The right to chose for ones self whether or not to serve in the military should be considered one of the freedoms that this country stands for.
9/6/18	Required selective service should be abolished. Men and women shouldn't have to be forced to do anything, let alone something they may be morally against. Thank you.
9/7/18	The military draft is patently unnecessary and its continuation is an affront to American values.
9/7/18	Please end required selective service (draft) registration for men.
9/7/18	<p>Yes, service has inherent value, BUT, stop making it mandatory for men, and do not start making it mandatory for females.</p> <p>Also, you must allow people to register as Conscientious Objectors.</p> <p>And if non-military service becomes required, be sure its pay and benefits are commensurate with Military service.</p>
9/7/18	If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."

9/7/18	<p>1. Service has inherent value but national service does not. Service toward our fellow man is the type of service that is great. We should do service for our planet to stop the devastation created by humans. Helping our government empower the wealthy at the expense of the rest of the citizenry is not acceptable. One should not need to use a weapon to be of service.</p> <p>2. Inspire them with great leaders. Incentivise them with great ideas and include stipends like forgiveness of school loan debts and funding for college/training school funds.</p> <p>3. War is evil, everyone knows it, especially our service men and women. People no longer want to participate in wars fought to enrich corporations, secure trade hegemony or wealthy people's interests. America's dishonesty about our participation in wars and the lies told through propaganda campaigns are the greatest barrier to aligning oneself with government activities.</p> <p>4. Be honest about the complexity of the reasons for US involvement. Stop lying to the American people. Don't dehumanize the enemy. Be honest about the human toll of war and the civilian death counts. Don't use euphemisms like "collateral damage." Cut out the propaganda. Offer alternatives in the military to killing. Use the military for more humanitarian service and missions.</p> <p>5. No. The draft must permanently be abolished. Any compulsion used to enlist people against their will is an inherent violation of free speech and one's right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Criminalizing people who refuse the draft is fascism.</p> <p>6. Yes. We should reinstate the box on one's draft registration that allows them to identify as a conscientious objector (CO) and respect those decisions. Also, military recruiters should not be given the names of high school students unless the students choose to solicit them.</p> <p>7. No. Most of us already by defacto, support all government actions implicitly by our taxes. It is even more unfair to require our blood and lineage in causes we do not support. If America's leaders can't inspire service among our young people through honest talk, there is a problem with American leadership, not the people themselves.</p>
9/7/18	Military service, just like any, should be done out of personal choice.
9/7/18	Militarism is sick and inhuman. Too much of this country's budget is wasted on the military industrial complex. America is an evil powerful country,
9/7/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men.</p> <p>Do not begin requiring that women register.</p> <p>If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/7/18	Please end selective service registration for men and never expand it to include women. If you do not end it, at least allow for registration of conscientious objectors. Non-military service should have pay and benefits equal to that of military service.
9/7/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men.</p> <p>Do not begin requiring that women register.</p> <p>If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>

9/7/18	Yes serve has inherit value, but not just military service this often get lost in the narrative. Why should the US be interested in increasing " desire to serve" to what end, what is the need and reason for this. There are virtually no barriers to military service any more that I am aware of, however there is no viable national service alternative on par with pay and benefits as the military. I believe that the draft is essential albeit with the option to name oneself and a conscientious objector and be offered alternative service. The draft is the only venue that ensure that ALL citizens bear the burden of war and its cost. There should be no deferments or exceptions as these are exploited by more affluent citizens. Gender needs to not be an issue either a draft should apply to all sexes. Currently on 1% of families save in the military I believe forced participation would make it more fair and greater involvement in the political process.
9/7/18	I think any form of registration should be abolished for men and we should not add women to any form of registration. If a draft is decided to be of use then an option for non-military service should also be included so people may choose to do necessary non-military work. If that is set up then anyone subjected to compulsory non-military should be paid at the same rate of pay with benefits as those who choose military service.
9/7/18	Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible. Am not sure if all service members would act in the best interests of our great nation if required to do service as not everyone has the same courage, might have different views regarding war, invasions, etc. I hope for the best outcome to protect and serve from within the heart. Am even questioning if there could be treasonous service members that might hurt missions instead of helping our country. In the best interest of our nation we must make wise and important decisions without risking other service men and women and that our nation. We love our America and to protect it please decide accordingly. Thank you and God Bless all service people!
9/7/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/7/18	Mandatory service is unnecessary and spurious. This country has a large Plain faith demographic, many who dress like everyone else. There are even Catholic branches of faith that hold to non-violence as an integral part of their religious practice. The current selective service registration form is illegal, leaving off the mandatory section to mark Conscientious Objector status for those young men who have been raised Plain faith/non-violent as a matter of religion. Furthermore, we are already at capacity for military service, and there are more voluntarily wanting to enlist than there is space for them. Selective service (the draft) is a waste of resources (collecting and maintaining the information), as well as non-compliant with Federal law (as far as the registration process goes), is practically unnecessary (due to maximum voluntary enrollment), and should be eliminated.
9/7/18	Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it?How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve?What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service?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?Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security?Are modifications to the selective service system needed?Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible?
9/7/18	to enroll in the military is a life and death commitment and should be strictly voluntary.

9/7/18	<p>To whom It May concern...</p> <p>Lets look towards a world beyond war!</p> <p>No draft!</p> <p>Women should not be made to register !</p> <p>Benefits and pay RIGHTFULLY GIVEN and equal to what military service deserves!</p> <p>Working towards peace/diplomacy!</p> <p>More education/health care and American jobs!!</p> <p>Thank You!!</p>
9/7/18	<p>My name is Kori Bertun and I am a Masters of Public Administration student at the University of Illinois Chicago. I am conducting a research project regarding national service, and am hoping to bridge academic theory with perspectives from professionals “in the field” engaging in this issue. Is there a member of the Commission or the staff who would be willing to conduct a 30 minute interview via phone? Please let me know if you are open to participating. I can be reached at [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you!</p>
9/7/18	<p>Given that there is no reason for our aggressive, illegal war making, and if military service was truly for peacekeeping rather than aggression, there would be no need for a draft, but people would want to serve to achieve and protect the vulnerable from the violence of aggressors, like the United States. We now have a "poverty draft," a situation where people cannot find meaningful work in our draconian oligopolistic economy, and so are driven, by desperation to enlist. The United States should lead the world in promoting peace, prosperity and justice worldwide rather than being the greatest threat to these through our aggressive military action.</p>
9/7/18	<p>Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? Yes, but only for defense purposes. Sadly, our wars have nothing to do with defense and everything to do with dominance of other countries.</p> <p>How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? By making service about defense instead of offense!</p> <p>What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? Lost trust and faith in the honesty and integrity of our government leaders.</p> <p>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 previous answers.</p> <p>Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? No!</p> <p>Are modifications to the selective service system needed? No opinion.</p>

	Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? Only in the event that we are too understaffed to be able to successfully defend an unexpected attack by another superpower.
9/7/18	In my lifetime, my oldest brother was Conscientious Objector of the Vietnam War -- since those days, our global connections have changed quite a bit -- global warming included. Why we do NOT need this focus of war as much as we do upon Global Peace! To focus instead upon the range from education to road repair, there are so many ways we can all contribute to this country.
9/7/18	How about less military and No Wars!
9/7/18	How about less military and No Wars!
9/7/18	All Americans should be subject to service. In fact, all Americans should serve a minimum stint - a couple of years probably. That would help avoid the phenomenon we have now of people who have never served and whose children and grandchildren are in no danger of being called up choosing again and again to go to war. It might also clean up some of the bad actors in the military that give service such an unsavory reputation. Anyone not fit for active duty should have other useful service to the nation within capabilities assigned except in cases of severe illness or physical/mental damage leaving the person incapable of holding any job under ADA. Currently, we have a military of the poor and immigrant in service to the greed of the wealthy and that is untenable.
9/7/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) No it does not. The value of service is particular to the individual and the community served. 2) More local interactions between those in need and those in whom the desire to service is cultivated. 3) Too much military focus, not enough service focus. 4) Outreach from local organizations to those with skills they require. The government can help broker the interactions without making them mandatory or pressured. 5) No. 6) The selective service system should be abolished. 7) No.

9/7/18	Please end required selective service (draft) for males, and begin removing names from previous requirement as it is not a necessary component of security or democracy. One should only choose to serve in military.
9/7/18	End required selective service (draft) registration. Wars are a failure to negotiate peacefully and that burden should not belong to our children.
9/8/18	No one wants to go to war against their will. Not for this dumb fuck president. Send him instead.
9/8/18	We need a Peace Corps within the U.S. We need to plant billions of trees and do others things to help the environment. No military service. More war will make the earth uninhabitable for mammals.
9/8/18	As a conscientious objector who endured abuse by federal agents in my youth, I oppose any and all forced conscription. Forcing a human being to do something against their will is tyranny and/or slavery, certainly inhuman if not diabolical.
9/8/18	<p>Please accept these comments on the future of the military draft in the United States</p> <p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men.</p> <p>Do not begin requiring that women register.</p> <p>If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>If there is to be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service".</p>
9/8/18	Mandatory military service is not any better than slavery. Military service should be voluntary. Military members should be given a living wage for their families and top-rate medical even after they leave the military. People can be encouraged to do public service (including non-military) but should not be forced to.
9/8/18	<p>I strongly object to any military draft. No one (male or female) should be required to participate in the military. The use of our military is excessive and should be very much reduced.</p> <p>Public service can be useful, but it should not be mandated, and should include civilian service. All public service (military or civilian) must be paid the same wages and benefits.</p>
9/8/18	<p>I strongly urge you to end draft registration for men and not to include it for women. The only registration I would support would be one to address our decaying internal public structures, in other words, something like the WPA of yore. Participation in such a public service registration should not be tied to any kind of college educational aid in any form and participants should be paid wages comparable to our volunteer armed services. The barriers to participation in the armed services are what our military personnel are trained and expected to do--kill people from other countries.</p> <p>If you decide NOT to end compulsory draft registration, please make it easier for people of peace to become conscientious objectors.</p>

9/8/18	<p>A military draft is not necessary to national security. Diplomats and peace workers are. I do not believe anyone should be required to register for the Selective Service. Registration should be ended for men and should not be started for women. If you want young people to join the military, you should use constructive methods to gain interest. (Going to high schools is not the right way to go about it--job fairs would be the appropriate place, for starters.) This country needs to learn that the right way to get along in the world is through peaceful means, not through violent means.</p> <p>If for some reason, after your evaluation, that registration is still required, then there should be a place for young people to write that they are conscientious objectors.</p> <p>Our schools need to teach that there are many ways to serve this country and world to make it a better place, and the most important ways should be those that make for peace with our neighbors. The draft does not make for peace. Working side by side with people to improve living conditions does.</p> <p>Abolish the Selective Service registration/draft.</p>
9/8/18	<p>I have a few suggestions: End required selective service registration for men. Don't begin requiring that women register. If not, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/8/18	<p>I strongly believe be that a voluntary armed force is more effective than one created through a draft. I believe that it is in the best interest of our nation to consider more than one kind of service in which young adults—men and women—could make a contribution. And I believe if the selective service requirement is not ended, those who object to involvement in military actions, based on religious, philosophical beliefs, and personal ethical code should either be allowed to pursue other forms of service, or should be allowed to opt out. There are so many areas of need in our country, limiting the idea of service to military service is an outdated concept.</p>
9/8/18	<p>I think there should be a path for young people to serve their country but that this path needn't require them to go to war in a foreign country. More and more we see that the need exists within this country for disaster relief and rescues, as well as infrastructure building including housing. It seems to me that something like the Citizen Conservation Corps of the post-Depression era is a far more important model to follow than the military. We need to rebuild America and CCC-type service model would be the answer.</p> <p>Our healthcare, education and mail delivery systems would benefit from Peace Corps type programs WITHIN OUR OWN BORDERS. This could also be shared with other countries abroad. Help humanity rather than fight wars.</p> <p>Given the possibility of public and national service that would be inspiring and educational and not likely fatal or maiming, a draft would not be necessary. I think the draft system is always broken because of the inherent bias in how it is applied and which young people it affects - I think it is wrong. If young men and women are housed, fed, clothed and learning new skills as well as being paid money and given future educational benefits, they would CHOOSE service, not be forced into it. Especially if their communities would benefit. What the military has learned about doing the above should be put to use for people here in America.</p>
9/8/18	<p>Please end draft registration for men and do not begin that process for women. Allow people to register as Conscientious Objectors. As a Mennonite, I know that in my history, President Grant met with some Mennonite ambassadors from South Russia to ask if we could immigrate to the U.S. without</p>

	violating our pacifist commitment. He said, in effect, "We do not have a military draft in this country. Come and share your farming expertise with us." That's why we came and grew wheat for this country and for export. We believe in non-violent conflict resolution. Period.
9/8/18	I believe we should end required selective service registration for men and not require it from women either. Non-military service should be scaled up for all who would like work, skills development and training and fair wages and benefits equal to military service.
9/9/18	Abolish draft registration.
9/9/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/9/18	There should be no mandatory service in the United States Military. End registration of all eligible men and women. End the selective service system. Participation in the military should be by choice and be amply rewarded monetarily and with benefits. If soldiers are needed, we want soldiers who choose to be in service and are not forced to be. Spend military funding on people and control the expenditures for weapons, etal....
9/9/18	I choose not to serve because the us army almost destroyed the life of my father imduring vietnam. I will never support an offensive military. Especially one that treats their soldiers like cannon fodder instead of people.
9/9/18	End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service." The US should declare PEACE with the rest of the world and the planet and use all resources to fight climate change and try to heal all that we have left damaged.
9/9/18	I believe we should end required selective service (draft) registration for men as well as not beginning to require that women register. In addition I strongly believe we should allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If a non-military service is necessary, its pay and benefits should at least equal to those of military "service."

9/9/18	<p>The truth is, having a volunteer military is plainly unfair. Not just that, it's unethical, unjustifiable and unsustainable. I began to think deeply about and read about conscription since I was around fourteen. I have now reached age twenty, and have completely flipped my beliefs. The statistics say that around seven percent of Americans have served in the military, and that 0.7 percent are currently serving.</p> <p>Seven percent? There should absolutely be a much bigger outrage than what we have for seven percent. We as citizens serve our country because it is an obligation to collectively put forth effort for the defense of our fellow citizens. The way I see it, we serve entirely because we are called to, not by the state but by our fellow citizens. Right now, seven percent of the population has at one point picked up the slack for the ninety three percent who did not.</p> <p>Let us imagine an America where only seven percent of Americans performed a series of other deeds. What if only seven percent of Americans observed stop signs? What if only seven percent of Americans paid their taxes? What if, heaven forbid only seven percent of Americans even wore pants in public? Trousers, slacks, you can call them what you want, but we wear them as a promise to our fellow citizen. It is both a right and a responsibility. It is part of what Jean-Jacques Rousseau called The Social Contract. When citizen number one agrees to cover up his skid marks, citizen number two agrees to cover up the smell of her poor laundry efforts. In the end, we are all entitled to the right to ride the bus to work while not beholding each other's unkempt and unshaven leg hair. However, we are only permitted to harvest the fruits of this collective labor by means of a unified harvest. But as much as the social contract is about allegiance between the citizen and his fellow citizen, it is also about allegiance between the state and the citizen. Of course, in an ideal situation, the citizen represents the embodiment of the power of the state. But we must not let our egalitarianism blind us to the reality of the situation. In conjunction with the citizen sacrificing his loyalty to the state, the state has sacrificed it's loyalty to the citizen. The state has refused to protect him from the monumental costs of American healthcare, at two times that of Canada and three times that of Germany. The state has skirted it's obligation to invest in the citizen's education, charging him much more for university tuition than his peers in almost every single country in the world. The state has cowered away from it's duty to reduce and regulate the emissions of Carbon Dioxide and Methane that will hazard the future of the very young citizen he calls to arms Last but not least, the state has failed to protect the citizen in uniform from excessive military misadventures, and has fruitlessly squandered his tax money in addition to his life.</p> <p>A draft would be a good step, but more must be fixed.</p>
9/9/18	If not ended, allow the choice of registering as conscientious objector.
9/9/18	Mandatory military service does not benefit the United States. Free people should not be called to the military without their consent, and at this time there is no need for this military contingent. If national security circumstances require mandatory service, there need to be other means to serve, i.e. in other capacities that allow those with conscientious objections to serve the country in other ways.

9/9/18	<p>US citizens and citizens of the world are beyond weary of war, and we are angry at national leaders who spend the majority of the US treasury on armaments and promote and create wars for corporate profits around the world. We do not want to see a return to the selective service policies of the Vietnam era. In fact, we want to end war unless our own nation is attacked [and I'm discounting 9/11, which was clearly orchestrated by our own government to assist Israel and boost Raytheon stock price. Stop perpetual war.</p> <p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military service.</p> <p>Pay attention to US citizens. We won't be quiet about war crimes committed by the United States, Israel or Saudi Arabia anymore.</p>
9/9/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/9/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. There should never be non-military service - that is tantamount to slavery.</p>
9/9/18	<p>I can't claim to have enough knowledge to adequately address questions of whether military service is needed for national security but I don't think military service has inherent value or that it is necessary for Americans or anyone else to feel compelled to serve to prove patriotism or dedication to the common good. I also don't believe citizens should be conscripted or forced against their conscience to serve in wars they do not consider justified or necessary to resolve conflicts which often could be addressed through peaceful means and without loss of life or property for all parties.</p>
9/9/18	<p>I do not believe in forcibly conscripting and drafting Americans to serve in the military. We obtain a far better quality of recruit when citizens VOLUNTEER for military service. Please abolish the draft!</p>
9/9/18	<p>Please end selective service for either men or women. We must deescalate our military presence around the world and more energy in reducing conflict world wide.</p>
9/10/18	<p>IT IS LONG PAST TIME TO GET RID OF THIS ODIOSUS REQUIREMENT. End required selective service registration for men. Do not force women to register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service." We are tired of your endless, abusive and pointless wars. We are tired of being treated like slaves and cannon fodder.</p>
9/10/18	<p>If it is already apparent that Abu Graib was the university in which ISIS was educated, perhaps I can suggest that finding another country to shoot up immediately if not sooner is not absolutely paramount.</p>

9/10/18	I think that it would be best to end selective service registration for men and not start it for women. I believe that it is an individual decision to serve and will encourage more dedicated members. If the selective service cannot be ended, I believe that there should be a choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there has to be non-military service, the pay and benefits should be equal to those of service.
9/10/18	I would like to register a request that there will be no draft or required military service registration for men and that women not be required to register for military service. If there is a requirement of non-military service, the pay and benefits for that individuals providing that service should be equivalent to that of individual in military service. And, there should be an option for individuals to register as conscientious objectors if there is required military service registration. Thank you for considering my opinion.
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9/10/18	<p>Dear Comm.,</p> <p>I will forgo taking time and space with the niceties and get right to it.</p> <p>IF Registration for the Selective Service is to continue, it should not discriminate. In much the same way as an application for many College Scholarships ask, registrants should include their Family Net Worth & Income in their registration. That way, in the event that a Draft is deemed necessary, the selection can be based on the value of the property and income-production being protected by the military action instead of a random things like birth dates and gender.</p> <p>Save time and improve efficiency by eliminating all those deferment clauses too.</p> <p>Sincerely, Rodger Asai Remembrance Rug Albany, OR</p>
9/10/18	<p>I am against any kind of murderers draft. The U.S. is creating the problems they fool people into thinking they are solving. No more murder of innocent people who have nothing to do with the problem the leaders of countries create. They shouldn't even be in the position of making decisions like this.</p>
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9/10/18	<p>Please make the draft include women, and draft them into combat. Women have destroyed the patriarchy, and now it's time we destroy female special privileges. It will weaken the military and women will die at higher rates, but that's the price you pay when you demand equality. We will always need the draft during any large warm. World War I, World War II, and Vietnam have made that obvious.</p>
9/10/18	<p>IT IS LONG PAST TIME TO GET RID OF THIS ODIIOUS REQUIREMENT. End required selective service registration for men. Do not force women to register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service." We are tired of your endless, abusive and pointless wars. We are tired of being treated like slaves and cannon fodder.</p>
9/10/18	<p>If it is already apparent that Abu Graib was the university in which ISIS was educated, perhaps I can suggest that finding another country to shoot up immediately if not sooner is not absolutely paramount.</p>
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9/11/18	<p>I believe that there should be a mandatory service requirement of all Americans with no deferments, Everyone should be included. I think that it is critical that every government official see their children included in any decision to go to war. I also think that it is good for the military for there to be members who don't want to be there, hopefully it will keep them honest.</p>
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9/11/18	The selective service system as it stands has major problems. It attempts to coerce unwilling individuals, under duress, to perform actions which they feel debase them. One need not draw analogies to understand that this produces the lowest quality result. The government can seek to inspire individuals to contribute to the public good, but it is a waste of public resources to effectively conduct litigation against those opposed to military service. Individuals who do not want to participate in military service experience a net reduction of liberty when pursued by a selective service system - which erodes their patriotism. It should be the goal of government to support each individual in finding their own way of contributing to the country's well being. -SR
9/11/18	1. Selective Service registration should end; military & public service should be voluntary. 2 If Selective Service continues- a. conscientious objectors must be allowed to mark down their objection to war at the time they register, and b. conscientious objectors must continue to be allowed to participate in "alternative service" which is outside of military service structures
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9/11/18	<p>As a 22 year retired veteran, I have come to support #VeteransForPeace. Our military should NOT be used to slaughter innocent people for minerals, oil, etc. The only use for our military should be peacemakers. There is NO WAR that is legit today! I will never encourage any young person to enlist for any reason, even for the carrots that are dangled to entice them into service. They will NEVER get what they were promised once they leave the service. AND if they stay in to retire and are married, they can and will lose up to 50% of their retirement in any divorce proceedings!!!!!! The military today is being used for corporation and politician's profit, not defense!! Those who are lining their pockets off the backs of our young people disgust me! Time to make a Department of Peace!! Here's my other thoughts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -End required selective service (draft) registration for men. -Do not begin requiring that women register. -If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. -If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."
9/11/18	<p>With hundreds of military bases around the world, staffed by U.S. personnel for the last six decades, there is NO logical reason now to create a selective service requirement of our young ! And most of them without basic medical care ! If anything, what is needed is a peace Corp. to help the tens of millions who are without a secure source of shelter, food, health, education.....our national security !!!!</p>
9/11/18	<p>War is not necessary for the defense of our country. Young people should not be required to give their lives so that corporate interests can make wars on other countries. However, service is highly desirable, and might obviate the need for war if we were using our resources to make other countries better. Reinststitute the Peace Corps. Send our young people abroad to teach and construct public projects such as agriculture and infrastructure. USA would have fewer enemies if we were making the world a better place instead of bombing it.</p>
9/11/18	<p>We have little need for a large fighting force. None of the conflicts since WW2 have been necessary for national security. We will always need the enlisted but only as a small force. For instance, we need to leave Afghanistan. It is obviously unwinnable. We knew that going in. We do NOT need a military draft. We do not need to require women to sign up for the Selective Service,nor for men.</p>
9/11/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men.</p> <p>Do not begin requiring that women register.</p> <p>If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>

9/12/18	<p>We support the voice to "inspire to serve", as John F. Kennedy said, "Ask what you can do for your country".</p> <p>As a part of the Conservative Anabaptist Service Program, (CASP), we desire to continue participation in service opportunities as we have in the past years. In this way we can screen our young men and select those who will make a positive contribution to the program. Work projects involve such things as repairing and building homes for the poor and for disaster victims. We greatly appreciate your consideration for us to continue serving the needs of the people of this country.</p> <p>Sincerely, Clayton Weaver</p> <p>Grace Mennonite Fellowship Bastrop, TX</p>
9/12/18	<p>could you please change your webpage so it actually shows some women? Remember this whole committee is about drafting women into combat. Don't try and hide that.</p>
9/12/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/12/18	<p>IF there is to be a 'draft', then everyone who is not conserved should serve - there are many countries that have compulsory national service - for those who are not capable of the expertise needed for the modern day military, there is always plenty of 'national service' projects that will benefit the Nation - use the CCC as an example of 'National Service' - certainly serving in the 'inner city'. Is no more dangerous than serving in Afghanistan! OR, abolish it completely and continue with a 'volunteer' military. I have a son-in-law (Lt. Commander) who started his career as an enlisted man currently serving this Country. I also have a grandson (2nd Class Petty Officer) currently serving this Country. I have two other grandsons whom I wish had had to do national service - both would have benefited from the experience. I have a granddaughter whom I hope will volunteer - unless of course by the time she is old enough to do so, National Service will be the requirement.</p>
9/12/18	<p>I believe that mandatory service and draft registration itself is wrong.we should be fostering peace and social justice.</p>

9/13/18	War is a poor and costly way to settle conflicts. It kills people and even preparation is a huge cost to nations. Our nation should jopin the best of other nations in support of World Court and United Nations actions to prevent warfare. I did not join the military in 1960 era because massive killing cannot bring a better world. The draft can be eliminated or at least re-instate registration as conscientious objector.
9/13/18	allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector
9/13/18	<p>Abolish the Selective Service System and draft registration. The information gathered by the SSS is nearly worthless weeks or months after it is collected, so draft registration does not to improve our military readiness. More importantly, forcing people to fight wars only increases the likelihood that the U.S. will engage in wars that the public does not support.</p> <p>All public service should be voluntary. Involuntary public service is an oxymoron.</p> <p>Programs which forgive educational debt or keep students out of debt, in return for serving people in need and issues of public concern, must be increased.</p>
9/13/18	The selective service system and military draft should be abolished. No one, including the government, has the moral right to force people to kill.
9/13/18	I believe the selective service system should be abolished for men and not extended to women. The all-volunteer model seems to be working for the military and we should not return to the days of compulsory service. If compulsory service is retained, individuals must be given an alternative to perform non-combat, non-military service at their own option. If compulsory service is required, individuals should automatically allowed to file for conscientious objector status; and, non-military service should be compensated at the same rate as military service.
9/13/18	<p>I write to request that the United States discontinue the Selective Service System altogether. This obsolete and out-of-date administrative system costs significant taxpayer funds, but does not actually provide any protection to the nation's security. It is a complete waste of time and resources.</p> <p>If the Selective Service System is not abolished entirely, at least terminate the requirement that all males register for the system. In addition, do not begin requiring that women register for the draft. If the registration system is not ended, add within it a procedure that will allow all individuals registering the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>If the system is modified to institute conscription of individuals for non-military service, make sure that the system will not discriminate against non-military participants, by requiring that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of individuals serving in military "service."</p>

9/14/18	<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>Please register my opposition to reinstating (& expanding) the military draft.</p> <p>The only draft I could support would be for young people to serve to fill needs within the US, taking responsibility for community & acquiring skills.</p> <p>Liz Helenchild</p>
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9/14/18

Adding my opinion to the conversation re "draft"

I have always thought that young folks should provide some service for the collective good as part of their education. So I would support the re-establishment of "the draft" ...

Service via military or other public service.

I'm not in a position to define such a program but think it should be worked on.

Sincerely

NormaLee Andres

Fort Bragg, CA

9/14/18	<p>Shown below are my thoughts on three specific questions you posed having to do with either the benefits of military service or related to the selective service system.</p> <p>As background, I served our Nation on active duty as an Army officer for 30 years. I had the privilege of leading American Soldiers as a platoon leader, company commander, battalion commander and brigade commander - in peacetime and in wartime in Iraq. I served over 8 years overseas. I was working inside the Pentagon on the morning of September 11, 2001 when the plane flown by terrorists attacked the building.</p> <p>When I first entered the military I had no intent to serve beyond my initial four-year commitment. However, I eventually fell in love with the Army lifestyle and especially the great Americans of all ranks and backgrounds with whom I served and their families. I recognize everyone who serves in the military has unique and different experiences. My 30 years in the Army went by quickly and I would have served longer if I could have. My wife and I raised two wonderful kids in the military; both are college graduates and productive members of our society.</p> <p>I've been blessed to also have a rewarding post-military life and still have the privilege of serving our Nation in a different capacity. I work with a team of professionals, we have an important mission and we do it well. Our small team is part of a much larger organization comprised of dedicated civil servants who live by a set of core values and provide healthcare and other services and benefits to Veterans. I also worked for a small but superb Veteran-owned company for a brief period after leaving the military. But nothing I have seen since leaving the military replicates the overall professionalism, dedication, competence, selflessness, teamwork, initiative, effectiveness, sense of adventure, camaraderie or accomplishments I saw on a daily basis in three decades in uniform. Many of the people I know who served in the military have similar thoughts.</p> <p>Q: Does military service have inherent value? If so what is it? // I think there is tremendous inherent value serving in the military. You learn never to take the freedoms we enjoy as Americans for granted and that periodically our freedom and way of life must be defended. Worded differently, I think serving in the U.S. military teaches you to appreciate our country even more. That is especially true if, like most people in the military, you have the chance to serve in an overseas assignment(s).</p> <p>In the military, you learn or reinforce existing individual values such as integrity, selflessness, duty, humility, teamwork, personal courage, self-discipline, patriotism, how to leverage your own abilities for the good of a larger purpose or aim, and that you're capable of doing much more than you ever thought possible.</p> <p>All of the U.S. military services are "results-driven organizations." Most people who join the military develop good habits that not only help them excel while in uniform, but also once they return to the private sector. Some of our most successful CEOs served previously in the military.</p> <p>In my view, the U.S. military is America's best and most-productive meritocracy. The military services don't care where you came from, what school you went to, who your parents are/were, what gender you are, what your race is, your ethnicity is, etc. The key questions are can you meet the standards, can you live by a set of core values, can you contribute to and "add value" to your team, can you perform under the most demanding circumstances,</p>
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and if necessary are you willing to risk everything and make the ultimate sacrifice to accomplish your mission for our country? Most people don't realize about half the people who want to join the U.S. military can't for a myriad of reasons. But those who are able to join quickly realize they are part of something special and will get to do things in uniform people who have not served can only dream about, see in a movie or read in a book.

I believe every able-body American citizen (men and women) should be required to serve our Nation in some capacity for at least 2 years between their 18th and 25th birthday. That could be in one of the military services, Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity, Veterans Service Organizations (American Legion, VFW, Disabled American Veterans, Order of the Purple Heart, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Blind Veterans of America, etc.) or any national nonprofit organization (NPO).

Q: How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? // Pertaining to the military, I think it's important to continue to highlight the importance of military service to our Nation in mainstream and social media through compelling human interest stories and well-placed and inspirational Public Service Announcements (PSAs).

Look for ways to highlight how military service will give people, particularly young people, a solid foundation, strong work ethos, set of skills and attributes, the confidence and a mindset that all obstacles can be overcome. All of those will help a person excel in the military and eventually translate to success in the private sector.

Continue to fund ROTC in high schools and colleges and similar military leadership development programs for the Marine Corps. Continue to fund the service academies. Continue to fund (at the levels requested by the Service Chiefs) the military advertising, marketing and recruiting accounts. Continue to give military recruiters access to high schools and colleges.

Look for ways to showcase our men and women in uniform whenever possible. There will always be young people who understand the value of serving in the military who will want to serve. But over the last 20 years, a growing trend is more and more of the young people joining are from military families - 2nd, 3rd and even 4th generation military families in some cases.

I also think Hollywood producers, directors and writers should look for ways to portray the military in general and individual Service Members more accurately and fairly and not to fit some preconceived stereotype they may have, which rarely is accurate and often does the U.S. military a disservice.

I think our Nation should give everyone serving in the military at least one large pay raise every 4-5 years as a gesture of our appreciation for their many sacrifices. We have been at war since 9/11 - 17 years. It is the longest period our Nation has been at war in our 242-year history. Many Service Members and their families have endured incredible hardships and challenges. Yet each year, our legislative process seems to struggle to find a way to come up with a 2% raise for those in uniform. As our economy grows and private sector wages continue to increase after more than a decade of stagnation, the compensation packages we offer American Service Members will be one of many factors young people consider when weighing the benefits of joining the military.

	<p>Military leaders, political leaders, leaders in education, corporate CEOs, media moguls and other key influencers in our society need to work together and look for innovative ways to bridge the divide that currently exists - and perhaps is growing wider - between those in the military and those who have never served. This will require a commitment and a strategy to be impactful. Only about 1% of our U.S. population currently serve in the Active, Guard or Reserves of the military. Veterans represent about 7% of our U.S. population. That means approximately 92% of our Nation have no military experience. Those statistics underscore the need for constant dialog between those who have military experience with those who have no military experience.</p> <p>Q: Are modifications to the selective service system needed? // Yes. In my view, all men and women who are otherwise eligible (health, mental suitability, criminal record, etc.) should be required to register for selective service upon reaching their 18th birthday. I believe only 18-year-old males are required to register currently. The U.S. military has opened up nearly all military specialties (officer and enlisted) to both men and women, which to me was the right thing to do. Yet we still only require men to register for selective service. This inconsistency no longer makes sense today and it sends the wrong signal to the young people of our Nation.</p> <p>Good luck with your project!</p>
9/14/18	<p>While national service is very important to solving the very real problems in this county the draft is not. We need to be scaling back the military not providing mechanisms to quickly expand it. The problems in this world cannot be solved by military force — our misadventures in Afghanistan and the Middle East should be proof of that. Let us redirect those resources to peaceful solutions to those problems by creating public service jobs with benefits at least as generous as those offered for military service (and which unlike a lot of military jobs pay a living wage.) This would also have the advantage of</p>

	encouraging private businesses to increase their pay by providing competition for young workers who are too often exploited by employers due to their inexperience and desperation.
9/14/18	Yes, I think men and women should have to register. The service has often helped young people to grow into strong, good people. It gives them opportunities that might not be otherwise available. Certainly I have seen those who came out of the service with some good ideas & habits. If they didn't, it was the fault of their own. The principles are there. As for money, you aren't going to get rich. What you make of the experience depends on you. Wives, husbands and children will, most likely, take their direction from the one in service. No profession is a guarantee of riches, prestige or happiness. It always depends on the individual.

9/14/18	<p>I believe that service has inherent value and should be promoted. By its very nature it is voluntary; the nature of 'service' changes when it is mandated. Therefore I think that the Commission should explore ways to increase the opportunities and foster a service mentality saving a mandate for last resort. Financial incentives also change the nature of 'service' because it can become merely another job. I think cultivating JFK's proposed mindset (what can I do for my country? my community?) is necessary.</p> <p>Suggestion 1 - Those who are entering college should be required to perform a minimum of 6 consecutive months of unpaid service of some sort in order to be eligible for government financial assistance.</p> <p>Suggestion 2 - Service opportunities could be created that also give helpful basic skills that will not necessarily be part of a career path. ie. assisting with maintenance on housing assistance projects in inner city or poor rural areas alongside an experienced person and so learning basic home repair and maintenance skills.</p> <p>Suggestion 3 - International service also be encouraged with Peace Corps expanded to make short term disaster relief, etc available.</p> <p>Suggestion 4 - That religious, nonprofit and humanitarian organizations provide opportunities for service that are recognized by the government but not managed by it. Having a steady flow of young Americans looking for short-term (6 month, again unpaid) opportunities could enable them to reach their goals better.</p> <p>Suggestion 5 - The attitude of service cannot be mandated; it must be fostered. A moral sense of obligation to help will help produce a lifetime of serving.</p> <p>I believe that a draft contingency is a necessary component of the security establishment. As a conscientious objector, I appreciate that the Selective Service has continued to evaluate the needs of COs in event of a draft and that there are contingency plans in place to accommodate us. Should all of that be eliminated then, in event of a crisis requiring a draft, we would start again to reinvent the wheel as happened in World War 1 with such unfortunate results.</p>
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	<p>If the SSS is mainly for military purposes, I think it should still include only the compulsory registration of men although it could be modified to include the voluntary registration of women. It could also shift from a military role to more of an alternative role, becoming the organization which organizes service opportunities other than military. They could have recruiting centers similar to the military ones to facilitate that.</p> <p>I could support mandatory service for all Americans if the choices of the type of service would be individual and if local, religious, and non-profit organizations would be available opportunities rather than only public, state, or federal ones.</p> <p>Tim Miller, Board Chairman, Peace and Service Committee of Beachy Amish Mennonites</p>
9/15/18	<p>I attended your session in Waco TX. One of the great models in Waco that promotes volunteerism is Act Locally Waco. www.actlocallywaco.org It includes a weekly email that highlights upcoming non-profit activities plus much more like job listings, volunteer opportunities, community opinion blog, etc. This model is replicable.</p>

9/15/18	<p>Ladies and Gentlemen,</p> <p>Though there have been isolated attacks such as Pearl Harbor or the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the United States has not been invaded by a foreign power since 1814, nor has there been a credible threat to its territorial integrity since 1865. Compulsory military service is not needed. Furthermore, when a large pool of potentially conscripted people is available, political leaders are more tempted to initiate foolish foreign wars, such as the Vietnam War, from which they will secure exemptions for their own children and grand children. The current machinery of Selective Service is an unneeded waste of money and resource and should be abandoned.</p> <p>To be sure, service to society and humanity in general do had inherent value. I taught in Detroit Public Schools for 4.5 years in the early 1970s. I consider that to have been a valuable public service. There are many other even more valuable ways that young people can voluntarily serve society, such as in public safety, forestry or environmental protection. If society values those contributions, it should give adequate compensation to those who serve. Compulsion is not required.</p> <p>If an emergency arises requiring compulsory service, conscientious objectors should be offered alternatives that provide pay and benefits equal to those who serve in the military.</p>
9/15/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Eliminate the Draft. *NO War without Congressional Approval. Accountability is Essential; this informs Voters. *Keep the National Guard INSIDE the Nation. *Reservists must be limited to one Tour (9-12 months). *Recruit from grown children of U.S.Congress Reps & Senators.
9/16/18	<p>I do not want you to reinstitute the draft. There are plenty of young people who are glad to go into the military without it. Keep in mind that what we have is a defense department, not an offense department. Instead of forcing people to serve against their wills, cut down on the need for military involvement by throwing fewer wars and occupations.</p>
9/16/18	<p>Stop required draft registration for men.</p> <p>Do not begin requiring that women register.</p> <p>If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/16/18	<p>It is long past time to end all draft registration. Citizens should be encouraged to participate in creating a better State if they are physically and mentally capable, but military service is corrosive to both individuals and society. If our nation's leaders should decide we must require selective service registration, female citizens must be exempted. Furthermore, those who wish to register as a conscientious objector should be free to do so. Should an alternative to military service be required of anyone, it must have, as a minimum, the same pay and benefits accorded citizens in the military. What we do to our own people both physically and mentally is a huge disgrace, and having harmed them we fail to adequately provide them treatment. Homelessness and suicide rates among veterans is abominable! I ask you to reject both the draft and deceitful recruitment tactics, permanently.</p>

9/17/18	<p>Concerning National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service, Attn: RFI COMMENT—Docket 05-2018-01</p> <p>It's time to end draft registration once and for all. Don't expand the draft to women. End it for everyone. Until the US is invaded by a foreign power, stop pretending that the draft is about anything other than empire and making the war mongers and bankers rich and powerful.</p> <p>Is there any means by which any number of individuals can delegate to someone else the moral right to do something which none of the individuals have the moral right to do themselves? Where do you or I get the right to force a person to register for the draft, how can we delegate a right we do not have? Where does the government get this power the people do not have?</p> <p>Do those who wield political power have the moral right to do things which other people do not have the moral right to do? If so, from whom and how did they acquire such a right? Does this power come from the barrel of a gun?</p> <p>Is there any process (e.g., constitutions, elections, legislation) by which human beings can transform an immoral act into a moral act? Is the constitution magical? Are elections magical? Are the opinions, aka legislation, of some human beings known as politicians divine?</p> <p>When law-makers and law-enforcers use coercion and force in the name of law and government, do they bear the same responsibility for their actions that anyone else would who did the same thing on his own? Can you or I draft a person to cut our grass or pick our cotton? How is it wrong for us to use coercion and force but not for the law-makers and law-enforcers?</p> <p>When there is a conflict between an individual's own moral conscience, and the commands of a political authority, is the individual morally obligated to do what he personally views as wrong in order to "obey the law"? How can those who morally object to draft registration opt out?</p>
9/17/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Having a sense of being needed; learning how other people with different backgrounds grew up and how the military equalizes everyone; meeting a wide variety of different, good, and bad people; schooling; you are able to retire at 38 years old, if you joined right out of high school. 2. Monetary incentive. 3. Age, health (mental and physical), intelligence 4. Larger monetary incentives. 5. Yes. 6. Yes. NO one gets to buy their way out of service. The ONLY ones to be exempted are people who have had the rest of their siblings die in war. 7. Yes. You will then understand what fighting for those rights we have cost and remember that when voting at the polls.
9/17/18	<p>Until we can have just military actions voted on by the congress we must stop selective service. Military service should be voluntary only.</p>

9/17/18	<p>I oppose forcing people to register for the military draft, and I oppose drafting persons into the military.</p> <p>Over 58,000 Americans were killed during the Vietnam War and the war accomplished nothing. An even greater number of other Americans suffered permanent physical or mental injury in the Vietnam War, again for no successful purpose.</p> <p>Americans should not be forced to go to the Mid-East to fight for people who do not share our democratic values. The people whom we are fighting for in the Mid-East want to punish us for not having the same religion as they do. The people whom we are fighting for in the Mid-East want to punish some of us for being female, or for being gay---except for those people whom are committing same-sex rape against other people.</p> <p>Thousands of volunteers in the military are currently being killed or injured for no good purpose. The Veterans Affairs department cannot adequately help our current veterans. We should not kill, injure, and neglect military draftees, on top of wrongfully harming our military volunteers.</p> <p>If you draft people, you should start with anyone whom has not already served, regardless of age, current occupation, or family status. You should not exclude most people who have physical disabilities, you should only exclude people who are the most severely disabled. A 40 year old or a 50 year old person should risk their life as much as a 19 year old person---in fact, since the older person has already lived twice as long as the younger person, it would be a greater tragedy if the younger person was the one to die while serving in the military. A lot of jobs in the military don't require massive physical labor---they use automation, or they are performing support jobs (cooks, plane crews whom are delivering supplies or ferrying troops from the U.S. to the battlefield area). An older person might not be able to engage in hand-to-hand combat with a 20-year-old enemy soldier, but the older person can watch a computer screen in Afghanistan, or press a drone or rocket button, or supply food to the infantry troops. If you can't serve in the military, you can perform alternative service in an American low-income neighborhood, regardless of how old you are, or what physical disabilities you have.</p>
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9/18/18	<p>Federal Register</p> <p>Comment by Larry Minear to the National Commission</p> <p>on Military, National and Public Service</p> <p>Agency Document Number 05-2018-01</p> <p>Sent to web address info@inspire2serve.gov</p> <p>Sept. 17, 2018</p> <p>A Researcher's Observations</p> <p>on Future Protections for Conscientious Objection</p> <p>As a researcher and writer on issues of war and conscience, I have examined over the last several decades the experiences of men and women in the U.S. military.</p> <p>Gleaned from scores of interviews and from materials open to the public in the Veterans History Project collection of the Library of Congress, these experiences form the core of <i>Through Veterans' Eyes: The Iraq and Afghanistan Experience</i> (Potomac Books, 2010). The book's website at larryminear.com also provides my conclusions and the data on which they are based. My chapter on <i>Wrestling with Ethical Issues</i> has particular relevance to the work of the Commission.</p> <p>The issue of conscientious objection affects National Guard personnel as well as those who serve in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines. These issues emerge from my earlier study, <i>The U.S. Citizen Soldier and the Global War on Terror: The National Guard Experience</i> (Tufts University: Medford MA 2007). It focuses on comments by members of the National Guard and their families. My interviews took place largely in Vermont and New Hampshire as the troops returned from overseas postings to their families and communities.</p>
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The experiences of military personnel with issues of conscience have also been the subject of debate in various scholarly publications. The Journal of Military Ethics during the years 2014-2015 contained numerous pieces on the subject, including my own analysis, commentaries by four colleagues in the field, two context-providing comments by the journal's editor, and a wrap-up of my own conclusions. My findings and recommendations are also published in "Afghanistan and Iraq: The Soldiers' Experience." (Journal of Military Experience, Vol. 3, available in digital form only).

Rather than recapitulate the data and conclusions in this Note, I would like to identify several recurring themes and broad conclusions.

Serving in Afghanistan and Iraq affected virtually everyone who served, many in life-changing ways. Some soldiers who initially affirmed the rightness of the wars ended by having serious questions, some remaining unspoken or unarticulated until after their return, if then. Conversely, others who initially harbored reservations about the rightness of the wars or the strategies followed ended by believing that the wars were necessary and deserved their own personal support. Many were deeply unsettled or troubled, whether or not they were numbered among the relatively few who formally applied for CO status.

I concluded that "the ethical and legal issues associated with the declaration and conduct of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq proved problematic for many of the troops, wrenching for some. The soldiers' concern for their own survival in the face of a ruthless enemy made the established ground rules of customary international law chafe. The uneven commitment to and application of the rules of war by U.S. authorities was also a source of confusion." (Through Veterans' Eyes," 82-83). More soldiers seem to have had a negative rather than a positive trajectory.

In pursuing its work, the Commission would do well to learn more from military personnel themselves about their experience and its take-a-ways for future wars. Even in the day of an all-volunteer army, complex and unsettling questions of conscience arise in volatile battlefield situations that need to be better understood and taken more seriously by military officials and policy-makers. Taken more seriously, fundamental ethical reservations among military and civilian personnel about today's conflicts need to act as a brake on future military action.

My research suggests that, the return to a system of conscription, as proposed by some, would have great difficulty succeeding, given a general lack of

interest and wariness among the citizenry in supporting overseas military activities. Introducing fundamental changes in the relations between the citizenry and the state will likely exacerbate the current fractured and fraught dialogue on such issues in the public square. The difficulties of finding appropriate language specifying the grounds on which exemptions or deferments would be available to those unwilling to join the ranks of the military is likely to pose another perplexing challenge to policy planners and legislative drafters.

I would be pleased to elaborate these points in greater detail if opportunity permits.

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Larry Minear

Orleans, MA

9/18/18 Rather than a straight military obligation via a draft the United States should have a 1 year survival training school obligation for both male and female. The United States military has not won a war since 1945 - this is a fact. With that track record and the trillions of dollars wasted on military programs since 1945 I'd say we'd do a lot better with training people how to survive in the wild. The character, the human values enforcement, the ability to

	transfer that training in to every day business and life's situations would be a far better value than marching around with a weapon on your shoulder. Many of us do not want to participate in America's political wars - they benefit the few. Got any problems with this, send me an email or a letter.
9/18/18	Compulsive selective service should only be enacted when the country itself is attacked, not when corporate interests are in jeopardy. When I enlisted in the military in 1970 I did it because I had just graduated from college and could not find a job due to another american recession, I did have a draft number but it was the last number in the lottery so I had no concern about being conscripted. A volunteer military with no prejudice or discrimination toward any member of society would allow people who actually believed they were serving the nation to do it in a way they choose. People who do not want become part of the military option will certainly find a way to avoid conscription and if drafted they will not be the most effective participants. There should be options to military service if someone wants to do something to make the country safer or better without facing prison simply because they do not believe that military aggression in another country is serving national interest. I feel that if not enough people choose to volunteer for military service that maybe it is a reflection of the lack of necessary information people need to decide if military options are necessary for the safety of the nation as a whole.
9/19/18	I am a conscientious objector to war. I understand the need for a military that is designed to protect our country and aid in disasters both local and national. I feel strongly that if we had a positive humanitarian force in the world we would have much less need for soldiers trained for war. I served two years in community development in Africa that fulfilled my obligation to the selective service system. I was able to make a positive impact on people in the Democratic Republic of Congo as a USA American and as a Christian. It was not without risk and a threat of my life. The Peace Corp was a good organization and should have been an option for military serve. Our Democracy would be stronger if all young people had opportunities to serve our country in a variety of ways. There have been a number of church denominations that have lead the way in the past and I believe there might be more in the future in organizing service opportunities that benefit both the USA and beyond. Respectfully, Joe Peters North Newton KS
9/19/18	I would like to register opinion on the Selective Service. Currently, there is no option for someone to register with objection on the basis of conscience. I am especially thinking of those who choose to follow Jesus Christ's example and teaching that I also believe points us to a life of non-violence. In the event of a draft, I would like a pathway for conscientious objectors to fulfill service requirements in recognized modes that contribute to society, but would not involve participation in the national military establishment. Please provide a pathway for people to register as conscientious objectors.
9/19/18	The service has inherent value in protecting the freedoms and values of the American people. The U.S. can increase the desire for young Americans by following the contemporary societal values of equality and accountability. As stated above, the value of the Military is to protect the values of the American people. Equality and Accountability are two important American values and therefore those principles should carry over to the Armed Forces and other services. There are several different areas of opportunity for Congress and the Military to improve on these values; however, there is a major principle that should be re-evaluated. The United States of America currently only mandates registration for conscription for male adults only. I believe in affirming equal rights for all, as enshrined in the Constitution, including gender equality. The conscription could become a necessary service in the near or late future. However, if there is to be a conscription in place- it needs to match the values and principles of our people.

9/19/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
9/19/18	<p>Millions of hard-working, responsible Americans are building and sustaining our country non-militarily than our government cares to acknowledge, refusing to fight greedy wars for empire, bringing useless death all around the world under the guise of homeland security. Military service? As an American mom once said: "I gave you a good boy and you sent me back a killer". No more draft. No more wars. Bring our troops home for citizen service here.</p>
9/19/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The all-volunteer force has proven to be a more effective fighting force than any conscripted force in history. 2. If our wars are just, the supply of volunteers will be sufficient to meet the threat. 3. End draft registration. 4. End the threat of conscription. 5. Conscription is slavery. 4. No more and never again.
9/20/18	<p>To whom it may concern, the time to end the selective service system has long since past. I encourage you to eliminate it. Also 'no' to national service + the draft of both men and women.</p>

9/20/18	<p>Dear Commissioners: I would like to have some input into your work. First some general comments: The violence of war is a denial of our common humanity. There are multiple nonviolent ways to resolve conflict and face oppression. We can and must live nonviolently to survive. As John F. Kennedy said before the United Nations on Sept. 25, 1961: "Mankind must put an end to war before war puts an end to mankind" The US is fighting wars in multiple countries, has troops in over a hundred countries, has an ever increasing military budget (Over \$700 billion for next year), and a huge national debt partly due to borrowing to pay for our wars. Arnold J. Toynbee (1889-1975), the British historian who wrote the 12-volume history on the rise and fall of civilizations said: "Militarism has been by far the commonest cause of the breakdown of civilizations" If Toynbee's analysis is correct, our runaway militarism threatens our future. Some more specific comments: A. Freedom of Religion is guaranteed in our Constitution in the First Amendment. Conscientious objection to war is a part of the religious belief of many people from many religious traditions. The United State Supreme Court in <i>United States v Seeger</i>, 380 U.S. 163 (1965) ruled that one can also be a conscientious objector without a religious belief in a Supreme Being. The current Selective Service System discriminates against the religious freedom of those who have a conscientious objection to war: 1) The primary purpose of the Selective Service registration is to be prepared for war, so the system itself discriminates against conscientious objectors. 2) Failure to register is a felony. For those with religious beliefs that prohibit them from registering with the Selective Service System there are severe punitive consequences. 3) There is no place on the current Selective Service registration form to indicate one is a Conscientious Objector. B. Currently the burden of fighting our wars falls disproportionately on the poor. Although we have no formal draft, our current situation is a "poverty draft". Recommendations: 1) The Selective Service System currently in place should be eliminated. It violates the religious freedom of many since its purpose is to prepare for war. 2) If a mandatory system of service is considered, a civilian service option should be offered. This option could be modeled after the successful Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) of 1932 to 1942 involving 3 million young men. Women could now be included. Benefits for any mandatory public service option should be the same for those who choose a military option. Our country's infrastructure is badly in need of repair and a modern day CCC could go a long way in remedying that. The military budget should support this work. 3) If the current system or any system of registration is maintained, the form should have a place to indicate one is a conscientious objector. 4) All discriminatory and punitive practices against conscientious objectors relative to any Selective Service System should be removed. 5) The Commission must ensure that the burden of fighting wars be equally distributed between rich and poor.</p>
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9/20/18	<p>Eleanor and I began our married life on August 30, 1958 with a commitment to God, each other, and our human community. It was an experience of serendipity because it provided an answer to my questions about the direction of my future. It is no secret that our decisions had been impacted by our readiness to practice the discipleship of peace as demonstrated in the life and ministry of Jesus. Like Jane Fonda we were "utterly fascinated by this man." I write these reflections as both of us enter the 8th decade of our lives. During this period we have responded in a variety of ways to the taxes required of citizens, especially those funds which the IRS was obligated by Congress to confiscate for war related purposes. A critical question for us was: "Why should the C.O. to war refuse service in the military if he or she does not refuse to pay those taxes?" Yes I was a war resister before I entered into the marriage relationship even though it was not clear how we could implement this goal in the years to come. Considering her strengths and my biases I felt that the two of us had the potential of being compatible partners for a life-long marriage. We knew that we were living in a prosperous society which did not always value persons who challenged the way in which most citizens expressed their loyalties and patriotism. Yet we were confident that our calling included service to others. And so we accepted an assignment overseas among the people of Indonesia together with the Mennonite Central Committee. It turned out to be an adventure which shaped us profoundly. After partnering nearly seven years with people of other cultures we were even more firmly committed to making a difference in North America. In the preface to my first book, <i>What Belongs to Caesar?</i> I suggested that it was William Warren Sweet's book, <i>The Story of Religion in America</i>, that first alerted me "to the idea that paying taxes designated for war might be inconsistent with the demands of Christian discipleship." It happened rather unexpectedly while we were students in Chicago attending Mennonite Biblical Seminary. Upon further reflection my memory suggests that the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec 7 1941 was a pivot moment for me. Even as an 8yr old I sensed that this was not an ordinary event. That afternoon I walked out on the farm trying to imagine what this 'happening' would mean for people on our planet and how it could possibly impact my own life. Guidance came from my parental home and church community along with the ever challenging newsletter, <i>The Peacemaker</i>, from Ohio (begun in 1948). A young man from Kansas, Austin Regier, confronted me with a clear witness. He saw no significant difference between being a conscientious objector to war and refusing to pay military taxes. The logic of that argument has continued to be convincing to this day. I also acknowledge that during my college years, Bennie Barger (business professor) planted more seeds of concern about the propriety of paying for war. With these significant influences I readily agree with Neil Ferre who claimed that truth in his book, <i>The Third Conversion Never Fails</i>. During our first year of marriage we drafted a letter to the "Commissioner of Internal Revenue, and Secretary for Tax Legislation" expressing our limited cooperation with the government's taxation of citizens. Dated March 30, 1960, it was printed in our denomination magazine (<i>The Mennonite</i>, June 9, 1959) along with a cartoon by Robert Regier. It was also circulated among immediate relatives who were basically sympathetic but not very encouraging. Lacking support or conviction (or both), we reluctantly paid the income tax for the year 1958. It felt good to serve the people of Indonesia for seven years (1960-1967). There were no tax obligations for us because we were on a maintenance support arrangement. Still I felt a need to return to N. America so that we could make a witness for nonviolent love in a society that was heavily involved in military exploitation of the Vietnamese people. During October 1965 we experienced the attempted coup in Indonesia which resulted in an estimated half million deaths or more. That event could have been a big risk for our family of five persons, but it wasn't. So why does every government justify and promote this "unqualified" obedience to governmental demands? After a year of additional seminary training in Elkhart, Eleanor and I accepted a pastoral assignment in Mountain Lake, MN. for three years. This proved to be a much greater risk because of my limited pastoral skills. Also not enough members of the congregation were willing to extend the contract to a staff person who was radical enough to challenge the prevailing assumptions in our society. I devoted time to an exploration of biblical texts which have been misused to justify obedience to one's government irrespective of what such a government might require militarily. Even though both pastors refused to voluntarily pay the federal excise tax on telephone service, one family in the</p>
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congregation chose to pay the tax for us despite our objections! (The 'excise tax' was often diverted to the UNICEF Children's Fund or other alternative funds). Even though we were offered another assignment by a congregation in Minneapolis, MN who knew about our predicament, this lack of support did negatively impact our relationship to each other. Eenaor was a loyal partner to me but there was a measure of withdrawal due to her disappointment and my failure to perform adequately. She was sympathetic to my goals but challenged the assumption that I should always have the last word. Because of our three children as dependents and the benefit of a housing allowance we were free of tax penalties in Mt. Lake. This changed with our relocation to the Twin Cities where the church office and parsonage were on the same telephone number. Yet the Church Council was willing to support our telephone tax protest for those three years. We filed taxes and protested annually. After relocation to Newton, KS in 1974 we purchased a house where we have lived for the past 40 years. Despite my heavy focus on social concerns and tax issues we have generally found options which relieved the tension of not paying income taxes. The most effective of these was to consolidate our benevolent giving and medical expenses within one of two years. This provided the advantage of getting more mileage out of tax benefits. Following our move to Kansas, Eleanor and I had a dual position as personnel coordinators for our Commission on Home Ministries. Clerical work together with interviewing volunteers was gratifying for both of us. During the 70s and 80s Eleanor taught piano and organ lessons while I insulated homes and worked for a printing company. For seven years I did pastoral visitation on a part-time basis. This eventually developed into a satisfying vocation with the local HUD housing project (62 units & 17 years at "Wheatland Homes.") The Board invited me to be the executive director knowing full well that we objected to paying military taxes. For 1981 and subsequent years we chose the strategy of paying only that portion of the Federal tax which was not designated for the Pentagon or military purposes. When the IRS placed a lien on our house the Board of Directors kindly wrote a letter of support to the IRS. (Robert Hyll advised us to direct letters to our congressional representatives rather than to the IRS). During the Reagan years James Klassen and I requested funds from the IRS and actually received them! It was a pleasant surprise to receive those checks and channel them to support social agencies! Despite our shared values and mutual peace concerns it became evident that our marriage relationship was 'growing apart' and becoming less intimate. She recently told me that I was fanatic and could no longer reciprocate my affirmations of her loyal partnership. So there is a kind of stability which remains but it is not what it once was. Some of it is a reflection of differing attitudes about what the government does or does not do for its citizens. Ever since World War II I have tended to be more skeptical of the nation's daily operations while she continues to be more optimistic about the good functions like roads, schools, and health programs. Her father, Norman Wismer, was energetic about his involvement with the Fellowship of Reconciliation in PA, often traveling to Philly and having contacts with persons like Bayard Rustin. Eleanor had two younger brothers, one whom was drafted into the U.S. army in Europe. Eleanor and her younger sister, Nancy Hilty, both live in this Blestem community for the past four years. They have a mutually fond appreciation for each other. To come to the decision to embark on a journey through life with another person, requires an enormous amount of courage. "An American writer, Joseph Sittler, has said 'the heart of marriage is promise. On the face of it it's a crazy promise. Two people, who have only partial understanding of one another, stand up and make this bizarre statement that they're going to cherish and care for one another for a lifetime....Marriage is a mutual acceptance of a crazy challenge to fulfill the seemingly impossible. A commitment like that takes guts.'" Being in the peacemaking business has been most rewarding. It has provided us with terrific literature and the opportunity to increase our sensitivity to the needs of people around the globe. We have been given the gift of compassion. We meet and work with the most beautiful people on the planet, like Cornelia Lehn. The Bromleys of Ohio are proof that the 'small people' can successfully confront the IRS. We should not fear it. A.J. Muste, our winsome peace advocate, noted that "the kingdoms of the world seem able to dominate and destroy everything; but they are themselves dominated and destroyed by their own lust for power." We backed into a simple lifestyle. At times the fellowship and camaraderie of WTR meetings surpassed that of the congregation to which we belong (and we certainly considered

our congregation to be peace minded). New understandings come to us to refresh our commitment to love and justice..Bill Keeney and Bob Hull observed that "only as people refuse the war tax will Congress take seriously the concerns fo conscientious citizens." As Wally Nelson asked, "What could be more positive than refusing to kill the people?" The other day I read from Wendell Berry's The Hidden Wound in which he makes the astute observation that we in America have "moral discomfort" because we are confused about religious freedom and political power. "And so beneath the public advocacy of the separation of church and state, then, read separation of morality and state." How profouns is that? It makes me want to increase me efforts to encourage more accountability for our citizen's actions. There are remarkable pioneers for peace. recently I became awawre of the Nonviolent Solider of Islam: Badshah Khan, A man to Match His Mountains. His living presence onthe borders of Afghanistan and Pakistan (Pushtunistan) led to the formation of an amazing movement away from blood revenge to the "Servants of God". Who would have guessed such a possibility in Asia during and following the World War I? yet, Badshah Khan, countered military recruitment with gospel nonviolence, bringnig "the collective conscience to life" among his people. Like Jeremiah, we need to unmask the illusions of power by being servants of hope among the vulnerable and wounded". Eleanor and I can confirm that since the year 2012 we were successful in living below the government taxable level. In fact that year we were to receive a refund totaling \$228. Knowing that the NWTRCC Committee which produces pamphlet #8 needs our stories of experience, we have made an effort to be somewhat transparent. Are we candid enough? Probably not. If eleanor's perspective were more explicit in my account of the marital conflict there would be more focus on my inabilities as well sa my compulsive habit of collecting too much. I was trained to be frugal on my inabilities as well as my compulsive habit of collecting too much. I was trained to be frugal before I left the parental home And I thought I was generous compared to some of my stingy cousins! Eleanor knows that few couples are able to be in full agreement on the details of how to protest one's complicity in war. It is a temptation to be too controlling of the other spouse. On the other hand, I understand that no one person alone can make the change happen. If I didn't feel my family responsibilities so keenly I would be inclined to live more frugally and accept the consequences of prison. This would enable one to disassociate onself more completely and clearly from the military-industrial complex. There are many ways to resist the efforts of the Pentagon in the U.S. tax system. We ask that you let us know if any of our experiences may be relevant to your task. We would apprecait e seeing how our reflections or that of others might be used if that should happen. Postscript of March 2, 2013: Eleanor and I foten felt that there was a significant bonding relaitonship when we recognized that we had come from parallel roots in Alsace out fo Swiss and Anabaptist histories. However, our forebears came to N. America via two distinct migrations - one in 1709 by the way of the Carolinas and Pennsylvania, the other in 1874 by the Great Plains. Was it providential or coincidental that we should have this common heritage form the past. Beyond that we come from two congregations states and miles apart that were tied together for su by an act of mutual aid and by the ministry of a person. Russell Mast was the one who served both locations during our growing-up years. Eleanor frequently speaks about how she at eleven years took copious notes while lsiteing to him preach at Deep Run West (located near Bedminster, PA). As a teenager who was eager to make sense of of life I listened intently to him at the Salem-Zion Church near Freeman, SD. He was known to spend an hour for every minute that he spoke to the congregation. His ministry was crucial in correcting my errors in character. So this is one servant of the church who brought our strands of hope together in a meaningful way. perhaps our individual transformations matured us enough to undertake our faith disciplines for our 'life together' - these 60 years. Parenthetically, I might add a comment about my 'Uncle Dan' (known to most citizens as 'bicycle dan'.) he was the second youngst of 11 siblings and remained a considerable energy attempting to keep him out by saking for a farm exemption. It was not successful. My father didn't talk much about that experience but perhaps we as children were too reluctant to ask questions. Uncle Dan spent several months as a non-combatant in the mess hall at Fort Reily, Kansas, consling himself that he was "feeding people instead of killing them". My Uncle was clearly different. Joel Schwader, a correspondent for the South dakota Magazine (sept-Oct, 2000, page 53) reported that he "never

rose in agner to those who made fun of him. All the years he stood on the corner smiling robbed them of their unconcern. he may have been crazy. But Dan Kaufman...taught the town of Freeman, SD the meaning of compassion". Paranthetically, when Russel mast arrived in the East Freeman community approximately 75% of the young men in the North Church were being drafted into the military. By God's grace through significant mid-week Bible studies and prophetic preaching that trend was reversed within two or three years. The congregation then had 75% entering into Civilian Public Service as an alternative to militarism. In my experience it was a most encouraging "God-send". Donald Kaufman. Sent for alternatives to war and military service Please examine carefully.

9/20/18

Dear Commissioners,

Now that your public hearings are finished and written submissions draw to a close, I've been thinking about constituency and responsibility.

Politicians' constituents come from their local pool of potential voters. However, the Commission's mandate is far broader. Your constituents are every American between 18 and 35. Your responsibility and historical imperative is to our young.

I'm going to make a pretty safe bet and say I don't think any of you fall between those ages! However, your duty to our young is to ignore the old, of either camp, from any side, across the political and moral divide.

But you may have children 18 to 35 or grandchildren approaching those ages. To make the right decisions honestly, all you need to do is think about what values and what kind of life you want for them.

The rest of us are all dinosaurs. We've lived that fullness already. It's time to give young Americans a turn at doing the right thing.

It high time to remember. Phil Ochs' 1965 song said, "It's always the old who lead us to the wars, it's always the young to fall."

I have been most impressed with the planning process of the Commission. It was a brilliant idea to meet with Americans throughout our country.

The Commission has given many Americans a voice. Before you, they've had no one in government who would listen...since 1940!

Regardless of your final recommendations, you've succeeded in doing a really good thing. You brought us all into the conversation. This is the kind of participatory democracy all Americans need.

I know you don't get to make the final decision on registration and compulsion. But we're in a new era now where both are unnecessary. All wars are misbegotten: peace always has a chance.

We need to give our young Americans values which will enable them to see the benefits of serving, in a constellation of capacities. Then we need to trust them to do so without threats or penalties. Conscription is slavery. And Lincoln freed the slaves!

We no longer need a coercive CPS but should emulate its good works. Similarly, the CCC, WPA, and TVA. Our young people need work at a fair wage for which they willingly sign up.

Furthermore, government needs to abolish the restrictions for those who fail to register—at least eight million. Why should there be punitive statutes barring nonregistrants from Federal loans and government jobs, State student loans and, in some cases, even denial of drivers' licenses?

When I first wrote, I told you I went to jail for the draft. I'd do it again. You need to consider carefully how many of those eight million would follow me.

The Commission must, of course, make your statistics public. How many attended each hearing, how many spoke, in each location. How many written submissions. Age and geographical demographics. We the public need to read the submissions, redacted of course, but in full or excerpted in order for us to accurately gauge the mood of our nation.

Whether the powers-that-be (the President and his advisors?) will follow your recommendations in 2020 is anyone's guess but we've had a chance to make America less militaristic, to make all of us a bit more free.

Thank you for your fine efforts.

peace&freedom,

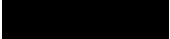
CJ Hinke

9/20/18	In my humble opinion and my deep belief JROTC should be more accessible to all interested high schools . I understand It is NOT a recruitment tool but it does INSPIRE service both civilian and military . Cadets and other students are inspired by the presence of JROTC in high schools. I've witnessed it first hand and the difference it makes in our youth ... OUR future . I believe it could be a vital link to help bridge the gap between those who serve and those who do not serve . The process is currently delayed, expensive and not “ friendly” for interested high schools. If you need my husbands LTC Michael Snyder (US-Army R) contact information , please let me know . He is very familiar with the process and has a strong grasp on understanding what could possibly be done to help improve the path for interested high schools . Thank you. VR Marianne Snyder
9/20/18	There is no need for conscription, it should not be expanded to include women. The SSS should be abolished. If ever there was a desire to draft more of our precious young people, there are multiple directories that could be used to harvest information. When young people are coerced to register by linking it to college financial aid and government jobs, they are forced to act against their conscience. Invest the SSS funds to fund education, job training, and health care.
9/20/18	While I appreciate the idea of service and the work that the organizations represented in the tabling service fair and on the commission panel, I have to ask this: Does your organization feel it would be appropriate to force people, young or old, to register for a list that might be used to coerce them to "volunteer"? Would forced service fit with the mission of your organization? Because if not, then the SSS should be abolished & its funds directed to supporting orgs such as yours as well as education & job training. If service is a privilege, how does that fit with mandatory SSS registration?
9/20/18	There is no need to have a selective service process. People will enlist if the cause is just. Having a ready list of young people in a pool ready to draft just makes it easier for presidents' to have war as an option. If the cause is for defense then people will readily join + enlist as we witnessed after 9/11.
9/20/18	Santa Barbara Friends Meeting (Quakers) Peace, Earthcare, and Social Concerns committee considered the questions on the website of the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service, including the Selective Service System (SSS) registration and the rights of Conscientious Objectors (COs). Here are thoughts for your consideration: 1) 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. 2) If the SSS is to be continued, the SS should contain an option to register as a Conscientious Objector. 3) 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 drivers license, qualify for financial aid in advanced education, governmental employment, etc. Removal of such penalties should be retroactive. 4) In regard to question 4, the barriers to military service may include serving in undeclared, unconstitutional military actions, loss of freedom, loss of education opportunities, health, family, personal necessities, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Moral Injury, Military Sexual Assault and violation of personal life philosophies. The question of barriers to non-military service also include the loss of timely, incremental personal development; for some people service is more appropriate later in life. All of the barriers to service can be mitigated by transferring large parts of the military budget to good public education, health care, infrastructure needs, etc. fulfilling the needs of a modern society.
9/20/18	As a returned Peace Corps Volunteer that served in the Dominican Republic and now a Program Director at the LA Conservation Corps, I very much appreciate the role that civil service plays in America. However, I hope that we can dedicate more funds to service organizations like Peace Corps + AmeriCorps, as well as actively engage more diverse communities to participate. - Justin lee

9/20/18	<p>My name is Kathleen Hernandez and I appreciate your courtesy in hearing my opinion in regards to Selective Service Registration. A military draft or draft contingency is not a necessary component of U.S. national security. By the United States increasing participation in military, national, and public service to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation we are expanding militarism in civil society and denying the use of the rule of law in place of perpetual war at home and abroad. I would support voluntary public service that provides community workers to uplift and better those communities through positive non-violent means to be determined by the communities themselves. It is imperative that Congress abolishes the Selective Service System. I do not support any kind of draft, and I myself as a mother, grandmother, and certificated teacher will do everything in my power to inform others to resist draft registration whether it be my daughter a registered nurse or a neighbor's son who just received a letter demanding that her son register. Draft registration is not an act of free will and serves up young people as potential cannon fodder. Currently, denying young males access to federal aid such as student grants and loans so they can attend a college or university when they don't register for the draft registration, charging them with a felony for refusing to register, or sending them threatening letters telling them that if they don't register they will not be able to get a state driver's license is equivalent to holding a gun to their head. It is morally wrong for the United States of America, land of the free to force anyone to sign up to be called to war or any other misnomer erroneously called "voluntary service". Many young folks comply against their will fearing the consequences of being charged with a felony for not wanting to sign one's life away, and or relinquishing their free will as a result of financial need. If a military recruiter doesn't get you to enlist for the poverty draft - Selective Services will make sure you make the poverty selective service list regardless. Of course, those that have the means to be supported financially through higher education may choose to not register and not be prosecuted, as the chances are truthfully slim to none of being charged with non-compliance. Those that are financially solvent are more likely to do so. But most of the country, the 99% are forced to register if they want to get a higher education. Requiring women to register would not justify the means of putting that gun to young people's heads. Education should not hang on the balance of registering for the Selective Service. Education should be a fully funded human right in a civilized society. Conscription is wrong at any age. Being young should not entitle one's country to demand a pound of flesh, to have to risk your life for your country. Compulsory service is not service. It is slave labor at the will of the power holder. This is not democratic whatsoever and in fact is archaic practices of oppression. Your commission ask "Does Service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it?" In the words of Elliott Adams, a Viet Nam veteran paratrooper who enlisted; "Yes, service (real service, not military "service") is essential to our country and any democracy. It helps citizens feel the connection between individual acts and the nation. Being involved in building the nation can become part of a life long understanding that democracies require (require not just allow) citizens to be active in directing the nation to be, or to become, a democracy. We, as a nation, desperately need a revitalization of that vital connection of the people to forming their government. If it has to be compulsory service we have already lose the battle. Something is wrong if people don't understand that democracy is cooperation, it is people working together for the greater good.</p>
9/20/18	<p>In my humble opinion and my deep belief JROTC should be more accessible to all interested high schools . I understand It is NOT a recruitment tool but it does INSPIRE service both civilian and military . Cadets and other students are inspired by the presence of JROTC in high schools. I've witnessed it first hand and the difference it makes in our youth ... OUR future . I believe it could be a vital link to help bridge the gap between those who serve and those who do not serve . The process is currently delayed, expensive and not " friendly" for interested high schools. If you need my husbands LTC Michael Snyder (US-Army R) contact information , please let me know . He is very familiar with the process and has a strong grasp on understanding what could possibly be done to help improve the path for interested high schools . Thank you. VR Marianne Snyder</p>

9/20/18	<p>I believe you must end required selective service registration for men, and that you must not begin requiring that women register.</p> <p>If the Commission does not recommend selective service be ended, please allow the choice to register as a conscientious objector.</p> <p>If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military service.</p> <p>Training for work in the military requires us to believe and be prepared to act upon the idea that some of our fellow humans are killable, and to face the likelihood that some of our fellow service members will be killed. This, in turn, eats away at our mental health and wellbeing. Please seek full funding to expand treatment for PTSD and reduce veteran suicides.</p>
9/20/18	<p>I believe we should strongly consider mandatory military service. I believe military training can help to build discipline and respect; it provides useful skills; it helps maintain an active military force; but most importantly, it promotes equality among citizens.</p>
9/20/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Service to one's country does have inherent value but there must be a choice involved concerning how to serve one's country. I believe President Kennedy's programs of the Peace Corps and Vista Volunteers were great examples of service. New programs oriented to serving the disenfranchised in the US should be an active alternative for anyone who chooses not to support war efforts. Also, similar to Roosevelt's CCC and WPA programs, there should be active programs for supporting our infrastructure and parks, etc. as an alternative service to war or supporting militarism. The funding of such programs must come from corporation taxes, companies in the US who avoid hiring US citizens; who hoard money in places like the Cayman Islands; the military budget and from taxes on the wealthiest citizens in the US. 2. Inspire them with great leaders. Incentivise them with great ideas and include stipends like forgiveness of school loan debts and funding for college/training school funds. 3. War is evil, everyone knows it, especially our service men and women. People no longer want to participate in wars fought to enrich corporations, secure trade hegemony or wealthy people's interests. America's dishonesty about our participation in wars and the lies told through propaganda campaigns are the greatest barrier to aligning oneself with government activities. 4. Be honest about the complexity of the reasons for US involvement. Stop lying to the American people. Don't dehumanize the enemy. Be honest about the human toll of war and the civilian death counts. Don't use euphemisms like "collateral damage." Cut out the propaganda. Offer alternatives in the military to killing. Use the military for more humanitarian service and missions. 5. No. The draft must permanently be abolished. Any compulsion used to enlist people against their will is an inherent violation of free speech and one's right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Criminalizing people who refuse the draft is fascism. 6. Yes. We should reinstate the box on one's draft registration that allows them to identify as a conscientious objector (CO) and respect those decisions. Also, military recruiters should not be given the names of high school students unless the students choose to solicit them. 7. No. Most of us already by defacto, support all government actions implicitly by our taxes. It is even more unfair to require our blood and lineage in causes we do not support. If America's leaders can't inspire service among our young people through honest talk, there is a problem with American leadership, not the people themselves.

9/21/18	<p>Thank you Larry. I watched while my brother, cousins, neighborhood and school friends, boyfriends, finally my husband too faced the draft. Then I joined weekly protests and stopped paying federal taxes. As we know now there were around 67,000 suicides of the veterans who made it back. A few years back now I was collecting peace petition signatures at a strip mall. A geandmother who signed told me she had a grandson who was being hounded by an army recruiter. She said “before I’ll let him sign up for a war I’ll break both his legs” .</p> <p>See you soon...we have to stay in this movement and keep on keeping on.</p> <p>On Thu, Sep 20, 2018 at 5:08 PM Larry Arnstein [REDACTED] wrote: I was draft bait in 1968, and ended up with a 1-Y, so I wasn't forced into what is now generally agreed to have been a huge mistake, that is, our misguided war in Vietnam. Something like 67,000 Americans died in that conflict, and hundreds of thousands were wounded, both in body and in spirit.</p> <p>The draft only enables our politicians to get us involved in conflicts we should not be involved in, and should be ended.</p> <p>Larry Arnstein [REDACTED] Santa Monica, CA [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p>
9/21/18	<p>I was draft bait in 1968, and ended up with a 1-Y, so I wasn't forced into what is now generally agreed to have been a huge mistake, that is, our misguided war in Vietnam. Something like 67,000 Americans died in that conflict, and hundreds of thousands were wounded, both in body and in spirit.</p> <p>The draft only enables our politicians to get us involved in conflicts we should not be involved in, and should be ended.</p> <p>Larry Arnstein [REDACTED] Santa Monica, CA [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p>
9/21/18	.
9/22/18	<p>I am strongly opposed to my government requiring people to register with the selective service system when they wish to obtain a driver's license or a photo ID. To register is a form of participation in war. People who cannot participate in any form of war because their conscience or their religious convictions prohibit such participation must, if this policy is implemented, go with out a driver's license or a photo ID. Or in other words they will be prevented from participating fully in life. This policy is coercive.</p>

	Shirley Way 
9/22/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public service is important in that it builds character and gives the person experience in a particular area. 2. How about offer a federally funded college scholarship that can be exchanged for voluntary service? 3. Military service sometimes is the only option for making a living for people in lower socioeconomic situations, which disproportionately affect people of color. The U.S. should work to create more opportunities for lower and middle income persons and serving in the military should not be the only opportunity that they have. 4. The U.S. should reduce it military presence around the world as well as reduce the number of armed conflicts that it enters into. This would reduce the demand for military personnel. Create service opportunities that build up rather than tear down. 5. The military draft should be abolished as people should not be forced to serve in the military for military campaigns that are entered into and decided on by the powerful few. Military service should be a voluntary decision. Also, the U.S. should reduce the number of conflicts that it enters into in order to reduce the demand for military personnel. The draft is also gender discriminatory as it only applies to males. 6. The selective service system should be abolished. It is gender discriminatory as only males are required to register with the system. If it continues, the country should continue to recognize forms of alternative service for Christians and other religious groups who cannot conscientiously serve in the military based on their religious convictions. Christianity is a pacifist religion. 7. No, probably not very practical or feasible. However, as mentioned above, some federally funded incentives could be made available for persons who choose to do service.
9/23/18	Conscripted service mismatches talents and wastes human and financial resources. Our country does not benefit from continued requirements for "draft registration" nor from the unwise portrayal of preparation for war being the way to serve one's country.

9/24/18

North Wales, Pennsylvania

September 20, 2018

National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service
2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Room 1029
Arlington, VA 22202

Attn: RFI COMMENT—Docket 05-2018-01
WRITTEN SUBMISSION #3 Part 1

Dear Commissioners,

Now that your public hearings are finished and written submissions draw to a close, I've been thinking about constituency and responsibility.

Politicians' constituents come from their local pool of potential voters. However, the Commission's mandate is far broader. Your constituents are every American between 18 and 35. Your responsibility and historical imperative is to our young.

I'm going to make a pretty safe bet and say I don't think any of you fall between those ages! However, your duty to our young is to ignore the old, of either camp, from any side, across the political and moral divide.

But you may have children 18 to 35 or grandchildren approaching those ages. To make the right decisions honestly, all you need to do is think about what values and what kind of life you want for them.

The rest of us are all dinosaurs. We've lived that fullness already. It's time to give young Americans a turn at doing the right thing.

It high time to remember. Phil Ochs' 1965 song said, "It's always the old who lead us to the wars, it's always the young to fall."

I have been most impressed with the planning process of the Commission. It was a brilliant idea to meet with Americans throughout our country.

The Commission has given many Americans a voice. Before you, they've had no one in government who would listen...since 1940!

Regardless of your final recommendations, you've succeeded in doing a really good thing. You brought us all into the conversation. This is the kind of participatory democracy all Americans need.

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We need to give our young Americans values which will enable them to see the benefits of serving, in a constellation of capacities. Then we need to trust them to do so without threats or penalties. Conscription is slavery. And Lincoln freed the slaves!

We no longer need a coercive CPS but should emulate its good works. Similarly, the CCC, WPA, and TVA. Our young people need work at a fair wage for which they willingly sign up.

Furthermore, government needs to abolish the restrictions for those who fail to register—at least eight million. Why should there be punitive statutes barring nonregistrants from Federal loans and government jobs, State student loans and, in some cases, even denial of drivers' licenses?

When I first wrote, I told you I went to jail for the draft. I'd do it again. You need to consider carefully how many of those eight million would follow me.

9/24/18	<p> [REDACTED]e North Wales, Pennsylvania [REDACTED] [REDACTED] </p> <p>September 20, 2018</p> <p>National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service 2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Room 1029 Arlington, VA 22202</p> <p>Attn: RFI COMMENT—Docket 05-2018-01 WRITTEN SUBMISSION #3 Part 2</p>
9/24/18	<p>Freedom of Religion was guaranteed in the United States Constitution in the First Amendment. For traditional historic Peace Churches such as the Church of the Brethren, the Mennonites, the Amish, the Hutterites and related groups, allegiance to God as taught by Jesus meant conscientious objection to war. Sometimes under appreciated is that this religious conviction also required a lifetime of serving others in daily life. Other Christians have developed similar responses to their faith including commitment to serve others both through and independent of vocation.</p> <p>The primary purpose of the Selective Service System is to be prepared for war so the system itself discriminates against religious freedom for those who are conscientious objectors to war. Indeed, there is no place on the current Selective Service registration form to indicate one is a conscientious objector. There is no mention in any Selective Service material of the equal virtue of non-violent service.</p> <p>The Selective Service System currently in place should be eliminated as it violates the religious freedom of many since its purpose is to prepare for war. Alternatively, discriminatory practices against conscientious objectors relative to the Selective Service System should be removed. For example, if the current system or any system of mandatory registration is maintained, the registration form should have a place to indicate one is a conscientious objector and a public service option be offered. Requirements and benefits for any mandatory public service option should be the same for those who choose a civilian service option as for those who choose the military. If the current or a new system continues to discriminate against religious freedom for those who are conscientious objectors to war, registration should be voluntary.</p>

9/24/18	<p>1. Yes, though I believe significant value is lost by limiting service strictly to military channels as is largely the focus currently. We currently have a confluence of underfunded (or not at all funded) public service projects and a large number of disengaged and underemployed youth. Adopting a selective service system which allowed for non-military service and combined desperately needed projects with training could alleviate this problem.</p> <p>2. See above.</p> <p>3. Limited options. The governmental focus is on military service and public service projects are largely left to be handled by a relatively small number of non-profits, which have limited ability to engage and support young people who may otherwise be interested.</p> <p>4. I don't believe it should. We are far too focused on national security at the expense of national development.</p> <p>5. If it were applied unilaterally and fairly, then yes. In its current form, no.</p> <p>6. Yes, desperately. If it is to be continued, all US citizens should be required to register and perform some manner of service or demonstrate an appropriate replacement.</p> <p>7. Absolutely. So much of this country is in desperate need of attention. If we channeled a tiny fraction of what we spend on military recruitment on domestic projects we could increase the quality of life for all Americans while engaging abandoned sectors of the population.</p>
9/24/18	<p>is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security?</p> <p>Recent articles have reported the Army has failed to meet recruiting goals this year, while the other military branches have not. Several reasons have been provided by the Army for this recent lack of willingness to enlist. The reasons did not include the possibility that young people are beginning to understand that the nation only pays lip service to supporting our troops. The returning veterans are publicly thanked but insufficiently provided the appropriate levels of care medically, have trouble gaining and sustaining employment, and suffer a high rate of suicide.</p> <p>That stated allow me to submit the idea of a required two year national service for all those fit to serve. if an individual never invests in an effort then they never respect the result of effort. Serving your country in any capacity for two years immediately upon high school graduation would allow for a maturation process that would enhance any technical or academic experiences that followed. it would create a sounder citizen because of their investment into the country. Placing them in unfamiliar surroundings with people of every stripe would increase their potential for empathy and teach them more about themselves.</p> <p>I conceived this notion in 1967 when I entered my freshman year in college after serving four years in the United States Navy. Military service is not for everyone but there are an almost infinite number of ways to help our fellow man across this land.</p>

9/24/18

9-24-18

AGAINST SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM REGISTRATION (regis. for the draft)

Gaining EQUALITY for women means allowing equal access to the benefits in society, not to the disadvantages. The Selective Service System (SSS) offers hurdles for men, and would do the same for women. With or without SSS women have access to the same positions as men in the military since 2015.

The removal of the restriction for women in combat service was in Dec. 2015.

The SSS needs to be abolished for men and never inacted for women. Since the job situation is abysmal, the military has ample recruits from the so called "poverty draft". Millions of poor young people have two choices, the military or prison.

Women who turn 18 would have to register along with men who currently are required to do so.

*Rep DeFazio's bill (HR 4525) to defund SSS lost in a House vote in the summer of 2016. It would have ended SSS. It would have restored eligibility for student aid (Pell Grants), jobs and other federal programs to young men who did not register for the draft.

It's important to endorse a bill similar to Rep DeFazio's bill of 2016.

Forcing men to register for SSS over the past 37+ years has proven impossible. It will be the same for women (& just cause more hardships for them).

A couple of years ago in response to my letter, my local Representative, Jackie Speier, said about the SSS that "...the century old database continues in the event of a catastrophic conflict or disaster that requires mass mobilization". But we've had that disaster with 9/11 and we didn't reinstate the draft at that time.

Some Republicans want to keep women out of the SSS for chauvinistic reasons, like Ted Cruz says "The idea that we should forcibly conscript young girls in combat... makes little sense at all." But these "young girls" are legal adults at age 18. And some conservatives want to include women in the SSS to avoid legal challenges of discrimination by men who are forced to register. (1981 the Supreme Court upheld the male only draft since women were "excluded from combat service".)

However, the majority of Americans are opposed to war! For us the SSS is a bad idea for women as it is for men. An idea that needs to be abolished, not expanded.

(From an Edward Hasbrouck article 62816 from National Catholic Reporter by Claire SchaefferDuffy) A 24 year old Julie Mastrine calls on Congress to "dump the draft". She says "The draft violates individual choice". Equality is a moot point if personal choice and bodily autonomy must first be eliminated.

Maria Santelli of the Committee on Conscience and War: "The so-called equality in the draft is over ridden by another justice issue - the U.S. reliance on war as a means of conflict resolution."

And for those who oppose draft registration there are numerous, often life long, hardships imposed. Why add those on for women? The Equal Rights Amendment has not even been ratified.

Please vote to abolish the SSS, costly & unnecessary!!

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Please vote to abolish the SSS, costly & unnecessary!!

9/25/18	<p>1. The inherent value of national or public service is that it helps volunteers understand, regardless of race, color, nationality, creed, that all humans are worthy of love, dignity and respect. The effect of service was profound on me. I grew up under the threat of communists, bomb shelters, taught to fear the Russians. I volunteered as a conscientious objector to war for two years of PAX service (July 1967- July 1969), under the Mennonite Central Committee in Akron PA. I served in West Berlin, Germany, behind the iron curtain, as an orderly caring for 15 men with various disabilities. As soon as I got behind the iron curtain, I found no reason to fear the people of the east. When I visited East Germany, I found out they were no different than me. They wanted peace. Interestingly enough the iron curtain fell about 28 years after it went up, without a shot being fired, and millions of lives were democratized by a peace movement started in Leipzig. (https://www.dw.com/en/germany-recalls-rallies-that-helped-bring-down-berlin-wall/a-4776699). As a result millions of lives were democratized.</p> <p>2. Encourage the desire for service by paying for the total cost of college/university/vocational school for all who serve.</p> <p>3. The barriers are that we need to be educated from day one in elementary school on how service is the responsibility of everyone. Paying for an education will be a real barrier reducer.</p> <p>4. The US can first of all address the national security and other public service needs of the nation by being what the US government was originally intended for ..'to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare"....etc. With national service this could be addressed.</p> <p>As a conscientious objector I know very little about serving in the military, but I do believe by treating your soldiers more humanly during training and after they leave the military might help. Currently approximately 20 veterans commit suicide every day. According to Brock and Lettini in "Soul Repair, Recovering from Moral Injury After War" p. xvii (Beacon Press 2012), the suicide problem is connected to the "reflexive shooting methods" taught after WWII. I would also suggest stop teaching the "reflexive shooting method" and care for your veterans.</p> <p>5. Yes we need a national military draft.</p> <p>6. Modifications needed to the selective service? See how the Swiss do it, and find out what worked and what didn't work with the German government as they used to have a mandatory service for all their youth but now I understand they have a voluntary army.</p> <p>7. Yes a mandatory service requirement is needed. See Dana Milbank's article entitled Restore Conscription, Restore America; https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/dana-milbank-restore-conscription-restore-america/2013/11/29/8d5f7ef8-5935-11e3-8304-caf30787c0a9_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.14989667efe5</p> <p>Thank you. Joe Landis</p>
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9/25/18	<p>Dear U.S. National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service,</p> <p>For service to our country to have value, it must be entirely voluntary. As such, I believe we should finally abolish the draft, including registration for the draft. I believe that in the unlikely event of a direct attack on American soil, we would have enough volunteers to fight back appropriately. Furthermore, there are many studies that show that nonviolent resistance is more effective than violence, so even in this supremely unlikely occurrence, we could adequately defend ourselves without a military response at all, if we trained significant numbers of Americans in non-violent resistance techniques. However, if the Commission is unwilling to abolish the draft, it must allow individuals to register as conscientious objectors so as not to force the unwilling into military service. Not only would this step be the ethical thing to do, but it would allow the military to avoid having to deal with individuals in its ranks who are unwilling to fight. Service to our country should include programs to clean up pollution, replant trees, teach nonviolent conflict resolution skills, and other activities that would actually improve citizens' lives, rather than killing citizens of other countries. No service should be mandatory. We are free adults who mustn't be forced into programs we don't wish. It violates the spirit of our country.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my comments.</p>
9/25/18	End required selective service registration for all. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. It's time to end the military industrial complex, and the killing machine. War is immoral, and only benefits the super-wealthy, and corporations.
9/25/18	How does conscription and a free society belong together? Where and how did the government get the "authority" to conscript anyone?
9/25/18	How does conscription and a free society belong together? Where and how did the government get the "authority" to conscript anyone?

9/25/18	<p>Military and Public Service could have inherent value if they provided fulfilling employment while also providing security for Americans without using dictatorial methods abroad. Fulfilling employment inherently requires using honourable work ethics and provides sought after skills for future employment outside Military and Public Service.</p> <p>The U.S can increase the desire for Americans to serve when Americans feel proud of their country and their government. This is achieved through benevolent and magnanimous actions from its leaders. New and innovative ideas need to be adopted. Simplistic and impossible goals of never ending growth & expansion need to be replaced for a self sustaining and dynamic body which innately achieves national and foreign security. One must remember when President Clinton eliminated the national deficit by closing down many superfluous military bases throughout the US.</p> <p>Racism spouted by The President and building walls to keep people out creates fear and insecurity which are barriers to joining the American services. Why would second generation immigrants want to join and represent a military who encourages hate towards immigrants?</p> <p>Americans need to trust that their country is involved in right and just causes. Collaborating and supporting Israeli Zionists is not a just cause. The U.S must stop supporting the Israeli occupation in Palestine and by default assist in the genocide of the Palestinian people. The problem is not about getting more people to join the military; the real problem is about solving this particular problem in the Middle East. As a result, we will not need more soldiers since security in this region affects many countries throughout the world and above all in the United States.</p> <p>Individuals with critical skills needed by the military are more interested in employment opportunities and skill development rather than corroborate many unethical practices committed by the military. As the U.S continues its illegal covert operations throughout the world, larger and larger military budgets will be needed as a result. Thus America’s current foreign policy remains unfeasible. Serious changes need to be made towards a realistic future for America and its citizens.</p> <p>Modifications to the selective service system are needed. Honesty must be upheld and set time frames of service must be respected. Quality health care services must be provided during and after service has been fulfilled. People exposed to corrupt behaviour should not be persecuted for either speaking out or refusing to take part.</p> <p>Military draft or draft contingency does not need to be a necessary component of U.S. national security if America’s foreign policies drastically change. I believe The Commission needs to adopt the idea of “Quality not Quantity”. With that idea in mind, I ask to please end required selective service (draft) registration for men and do not begin requiring that women register.</p>
9/25/18	<p>Are modifications to the selective service system needed?</p> <p>Yes. Please consider updating the selective service form to include the ability to designate whether one is a conscientious objector. As you can imagine, registering for selective service as a conscientious objector without the ability to specify this on the form can be spiritually challenging.</p> <p>Ideally, in addition to a checkbox, there would be an optional freeform area to elaborate.</p> <p>Thanks for your consideration.</p>

9/26/18	<p>Please recommend the elimination of Selective Service Registration, and of any legal obligation of registrants to serve if drafted. In a time when there are far more than enough volunteers to serve in our bloated military forces, draft registration is an anachronism and an terrible waste of Government human and fiscal resources. It also is a direct attack on the human rights of those who are required by law to register, making non registration for any reason a Federal Felony offense. Direct enforcement of the registration requirement is nonexistent except for those who openly protest or object to the registration requirement. The requirement discriminates against the First Amendment rights of those conscientious objectors for whom military service, or subjection to the demands to be prepared to serve in the military service, violates their deepest religious or spiritual values. Indirect enforcement of the registration requirement through denial of Federal or other legal benefits is a reprehensible abuse of the purposes for which those benefits were established. In today's America, the Federal Government already has access directly to the data it needs about all of its citizens and legal residents, so there is no Governmental purpose served by the registration requirement. Finally, the requirement is a direct assault on democracy when it is used, through nonavailability of government identification cards, to deny the vote to citizens who are entitled to vote.</p> <p>John Surr [REDACTED] Charlottesville, VA [REDACTED]</p>
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9/26/18	<p>I truly believe that the military draft should be completely abolished for both male and females. The reasons behind this are: All wars are unjust, involuntary service is not only unjust but slavery as well, and not possible in today's world. All wars are unjust because it is irrational and causes massive loss of life, displacement, famine, and damage to the environment. Going to war is not defending your country. War is just an extension of politics by physical force. The argument against this is that war is human nature. This is not true. Lets say U.S and Russia fight a war. If it is human nature to fight in a war why would both these countries need a draft at all? Wouldn't both populations of each country all volunteer anyway? The answer is no. While people volunteer, it has always been the case that majority want nothing to do with the war at all because they want to live their lives the way they want to. Defending your family and fighting a war are apples and oranges. Did Russia ,China, Iraq,Vietnam, Germany, etc populations decided "hey lets all go steamroll America!" No. You hear from U.S side " Fight for freedom." You hear from Russia "NATO is coming to get us!" China " We want peace is stability" Iran " The jews are coming to get us!" Governments install in our minds from birth we need to be 100% loyal to our land and give your life for it. This is nothing but pure tribalism. Soldiers are nothing but pawns for a chess game our governments like to play with each other.</p> <p>"Military men are just dumb, stupid animals to be used as pawns in foreign policy." — Henry Kissinger</p> <p>The second reason I am against the military draft is because it is slavery and violates the 13th amendment and Article 18 of Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (Amendment 13)- "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."(Article 18 of Universal Declaration of Human Rights.)"Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, CONSCIENCE and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance."</p> <p>The last reason is because it is not possible. It is not possible because if we were to conscript large amounts of people it would collapse the U.S economy with 20 trillion debt and rising. Also nuclear weapons will produce death and destruction not seen before. Not only would billions die but the environment will collapse.All humans are 1/50 cousins. We live on a wet speck of dust drifting in space around a medium sized star in an average galaxy. There are billions of stars holding billions of planets. Our country is not special, no country is special. We are one planet, one organism. If an organism is at war with itself, is doomed.</p>
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9/26/18	<p>I have several beliefs about universal service. Some of them are contradictory.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. I believe that democratic consensus is the only way to accomplish world peace. I believe national democratic consensus will be the starting point to our eventual development of a democratic world government.2. I believe that the only way we can begin to understand, learn to trust, and develop genuine consensus is to live and work with people different than ourselves on a shared goal for a sufficient period of time to overcome inherent bias towards others different from ourselves.3. I do not believe in the use of military force to resolve differences.4. I believe in universal mandatory service requirement for all people. I am undecided about exceptions for anyone or any group.5. I believe that universal service should pay individuals sufficiently to support themselves and their families for the duration of service.6. I believe that individuals who have successfully completed service should be offered incentives to develop those skills that the nation values through training and education.7. Non military as well as military service should be acceptable.8. The rich and powerful should not be given preferential treatment in assignments. <p>Respectfully submitted Mark Hedger</p>
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9/27/18

W. Andrew Harrell, Ph.D., J.D.
Attorney at Law

[REDACTED]
Beverly Hills, CA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

COMMENT ON THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON MILITARY, NATIONAL AND PUBLIC SERVICE

September 27, 2018

Submitted Via E-Mail Attachment to: info@inspire2serve.gov/ Docket No. 05-2018-01

I am going to provide some comments on this commission, based in part on my attendance at your recent public presentation in Los Angeles. I am not interested in receiving any response from the commission nor any future correspondence. Instead, I am sending a copy of this comment to my Congresswoman, urging her to act on it.

By way of background, I have had a number of family members involved in U.S. Army Intelligence and in the CIA. They were involved, dating from the Eisenhower administration, in the “secret” war in Laos. They were appalled by the barbarity of their involvement in SE Asia, and urged me and others to oppose the inevitability of this ill-conceived misadventure. This was 1960, and I had just turned 15. My public opposition to this war dismayed my local Congressman and the local draft board. My Congressman informed me that “he didn’t represent people of my ilk” and that he was actively encouraging the draft board to “get me” into the Army and teach me a lesson.” He hoped that many of us “traitors” would die. After graduating from Pomona College in 1967, in the midst of graduate school, my quarrel with the draft board intensified, to the point that I began attending law school to defend myself and other “traitors.” In 1971 I completed my Ph.D. and was well on my way to completing law school. I began working with lawyers in the Pacific Northwest to fight the Selective Service System. My entire legal career has been spent on human rights issues. I currently defend soldiers as part of the MAP group in AILA who have immigration issues with the USCIS, DOJ and the DOD. In other words, I have been fighting the U.S. government for most of my adult life and will continue to do so if necessary. Many of the problems that we faced in the 1960s are unresolved, and your commission

is symptomatic of this unfinished business.

First, you propose that the SSS implement some sort of universal registration, regardless of age or gender. This is unnecessary and appears to be a sop to an outdated agency. The government already has more than enough data bases. There are commercial data bases that have this information. As part of my research I routinely use a variety of data bases and search software to locate seemingly isolated, hard-to-find individuals and groups. If you want a universal registration, provide all citizens with universal health care. This is how it's done in modern countries. The SSS practice of registering only males is unconstitutional, placing an undue disadvantage and burden on them. I don't know how you keep this on the books. It is a blatant violation of equal protection. My understanding is that compliance is dubious, and prosecutions are rare. Unlike the 1960s, there are tens of thousands of lawyers who would be eager to fight you on an expansion of registration. Go ahead and try, but it will be a PR nightmare. We're ready for you. My experience with the SSS was that it was that it's day-to-day operation was the most egregious violation of due process I have ever encountered. Its conduct was and likely remains a textbook violation of the APA. I recommend that the SSS use this commission as an opportunity to explore its abuses and poor reputation and, if possible, rehabilitate itself. It's a relic from the past and should be killed. In a true national emergency, Americans are eager to volunteer to protect their country. The mere existence of the SSS is a blight.

Second, you are exploring universal conscription. Very few countries have conscription and, with a few exceptions, most are small, developing countries engaged in local conflicts where conscription might be justified. Your aim, on the other hand, is to provide a reservoir of poorly paid potential cannon fodder. Any draft which targets young males is patently unconstitutional. You don't even have a rational basis for doing this anymore. Every published, data-driven study repeatedly documents that a draft imposes an unfair tax on those who are drafted and confers an unfair benefit on those who are not drafted. In the Vietnam War the draft deprived the civilian workforce of badly needed workers. It reduced consumption and consumer demand and was the direct cause of a prolonged recession. National debt was increased. I hope I don't need to articulate the life-long trauma and ill health that this war resulted in. Since WW II this country has engaged in 38 military adventures. I cannot point to a single benefit from this constant state of war. If you re-instate conscription, you will further divide this nation. Your timing is awful since I doubt that very many Americans would be motivated to give their lives in service to the current "president." If you want a military, keep it professional and pay it well.

Third, the ability of this nation to wage war is declining. It is an aging population and the current administration has made a concerted effort to reduce migration, disregarding the fact that first and second generation immigrants have been the mainstay of combat forces in previous conflicts. The demographics are against the U.S. continuing to expand or maintain its empire.

Fourth, American youth have many things already on their minds: staggering college debt, joblessness, stagnant wealth, racism, lack of health care, environmental disasters, etc. Solve these problems first and give our youth a country worth fighting for.

Fifth, one of your missions is to increase volunteerism. There is a crying need to provide youth with meaningful work that pays a living wage. (This was the strong message at your dog and pony shows.) What it seems that you really want is youth to volunteer for free. This isn't going to happen. America certainly has many challenges, and our youth has the energy and talent to do address these challenges, but don't make them slaves. Raise

taxes and use this volunteerism to backdoor a guarantee income. Failing to do this, this country is headed to massive unemployment, unrest, and a country definitely not worth fighting for.

Sixth, you propose making certain occupational fields permanently vulnerable to the draft. This is a remarkably stupid idea. It imposes a burden on people in these fields and creates a natural deterrent to going into them. It places the military in direct and unhealthy competition with the private sector. This proposal presumes that the military should dominate scarce human and financial resources even more. Have you forgotten Eisenhower's warning? Haven't you militarized the consciousness of the country enough? Finally, this proposal presumes that the military knows enough to anticipate what it needs. You are going in the wrong direction with this proposal. You need to drastically reduce the scope and cost of the military. Maybe train the commander in chief to be diplomatic rather than a man-child bully. We constitute less than 5% of the population. We are not in a position to continue to threaten, kill or coerce the rest of the world.

Seventh, someone submitted a comment that we need cyber warriors to defend us. I know something about this, since I am one of the pioneers in data science and AI/machine learning. A goal of machine learning is to eliminate human operators, i.e., to have autonomous, unsupervised machine learning. When this is achieved (soon?), your cyber warriors will be a liability since the "machine" will be more creative and relentless. Your current military, especially the expensive high tech weaponry, will be vulnerable to an AI attack. The enemy will use your own stuff to kill you. You people need to rethink this before you fall back on old military paradigms. And, get people who are really doing AI research and application rather than these political science consultants who seem to be writing all of the popular articles but really are dangerously clueless.

Eight, your proposal to draft STEM scientists is dangerous and ill-advised. When I was an undergraduate, many of my professors had been part of the Manhattan Project. They constantly warned about the absorption of the sciences into the military and the restrictions on research. The military already controls too much of research funding. This is not healthy and disadvantages us internationally. You should use this commission to explore and debate this. It may be instructive to review the discussion of Heisenberg's involvement in the German A bomb to appreciate the pitfalls of coercing scientists into war-related activities.

Sincerely,

W. Andrew Harrell, Ph.D., J.D.

9/27/18	<p>It is time to abolish Selective Service registration!</p> <p>The cost to society of Selective Service registration far exceeds the \$25 million budgeted to the Selective Service System. Because those who fail to register lose eligibility for college loans and grants, government jobs, job training, etc., society loses because many of its members do not fulfill their potential and are unable to contribute to society as they should. Also, colleges have the burden of verifying compliance, and some states that require compliance for state benefits have added costs to their budgets. Extending the registration requirement to women would only increase these costs.</p> <p>If the requirement to register does continue, a pathway for persons to register as conscientious objectors should be provided. Doing so would allow many COs to register. I myself became a religious conscientious objector after registration, and was finally granted classification as such 50 years ago. My son, on the other hand, refused to register, not having the option of doing so as a CO, and was not eligible for college loans and other government benefits.</p> <p>Maintaining the apparatus of a military draft has no place in a free and democratic society!</p> <p>Dr. Dennis Bricker Iowa City, IA</p>
9/27/18	<p>Service only has value if it is voluntary and chosen by a free society. Service does not have value in of itself, as value cannot exist outside of individual choice. Beyond this, however, a draft which requires service from a country's citizens is incompatible with a free society. The military may have many issues recruiting new soldiers, but the solution is not to mandate service. The solution is to change the incentives which new soldiers would face, and to reorient military actions towards the new values of the next generation. There is less support for interventionist warfare, and great skepticism over the recruiting practices of the military towards those with few other career options. The military of a free society should be no larger than that which can be voluntarily provided, and if that means the military shrinks, so be it. It is not just, or compatible with a free society, to mandate military service from more people (e.g. women) any more than it is just to mandate it from those who, by accident of birth, are born male. In sum, mandatory military service is not necessary or valuable beyond the voluntary participation of those who choose to pursue it - and it is not necessary or valuable insofar as it is used as a tool of oppression instead of a last resort of defense. Therefore, it does not matter if it is feasible. Just because you can do something by force does not make it right or just, and the military could do better by changing within before it attempts to force change from others. The more the military demands of a country's free citizens at the point of a gun or the threat of prison, the less they will willingly bow to its demands, and the worse the military's enrollment and service problem will become. Service must be freely given, or not given at all.</p>

9/27/18

I retired from the United States Marine Corps in 2015 at the top of the SNCO ranks, as a MGySgt.

The vast majority of Marines I served with joined for financial reasons though the reasons for their continued service varied. Even after 9/11, there were few who could convincingly argue that they were foregoing better financial options to join the service. I commend the exceptions to the rule, but in my experience they were in the minority. Could the motivations be shallow because the notion of service is too narrow? I believe that it is.

I support both broadening the opportunities for service to include non-military service as well as increasing the incentives to broader service so that every young person has the means to build the foundation for effective life-long financial and civic engagement by providing civilian or military service in some manner, either domestically or internationally. This foundation can take many forms, from undergraduate, graduate, or continuing education to starting a business or non-profit organization to purchasing a home or to raising a family. We can't afford to think too narrowly about service and we all benefit from a broadened understanding of what it means to provide service.

Having served in and lead a highly professional, highly skilled volunteer force, I do not support compulsory military or civilian service. It is all too easy for the state to use such a system as a means of forced socialization and indoctrination that leads to support for immoral, tyrannical state behavior, as we see most prominently today in the case of Israel but have seen countless times throughout history. I can report from personal experience that our military and law enforcement communities even today show troubling signs of being broadly co-opted by right wing extremists, and we cannot allow conscription to become a further tool for the right to solidify ultra-nationalistic political power.

Does service as traditionally understood in the military/Peace Corps model have inherent value? I find it difficult to make this narrow case. To make it personal, I cannot argue that my mother, who raised seven very accomplished children as a stay at home mom, lacks some personal value that my father possessed. He largely left child rearing to her but served a few years on on a diesel submarine. On the contrary, I would argue that her service has been exponentially more valuable to the US. After all, hers resulted in a Marine Corps E-9, an Air Force O-6, a Navy Hornet pilot, two PhDs, an exceptional public school teacher, and an IT specialist who is keeping our public mortgage system running. However, if we consider service more expansively to include the contributions of others such as mothers and teachers, then I would agree that service has value.

9/27/18	<p>The Selective Service System is no longer needed; draft registration is no needed. President Carter restarted registration for purely political purposes, to "send a message" to Russia. It was not received or ignored, but we have spent millions, and disrupted quite a few lives, still trying to send that message.</p> <p>In today's computer age, a new agency--created during a time of need--could produce a list of draft eligible persons (Congress has yet to deal with the gender issue) that was more complete and more useful than the list now maintained by SSS, which by its own estimates misses 10% of eligibles. Existing computer databases are superior.</p> <p>SSS is an expensive anachronism. Eliminating it does not change the reality that the U.S. has successfully used the draft in time of war, and will certainly do so again should congress, supported by the nation, believe it should be used. In the meantime tax dollars are being wasted maintaining an SSS that is superfluous.</p> <p>There are moral, philosophical, legal, and constitutional issues relating to the draft. Our country has had changing attitudes toward the use of the draft. Abolishing the SSS does not resolve these issues. And, in fact, they cannot be resolved now; they must be resolved at the time that we are faced with a world situation that seems to call for an American response which included conscription to produce then number of persons needed in an emergency. Decisions that we might write into law today, will have little impact in the future as we confront the possible need for a draft. The Selective Service System needs to be eliminated now as a purely practical matter: it costs dollars and creates an unneeded bureaucracy in a time of great need for government efforts in other aspects of our national life.</p>
9/27/18	<p>Dear Sirs and Madams,</p> <p>I want to address the issue of Conscientious Objection because I am a pacifist and raised my children accordingly.</p> <p>The Selective Service System as it currently exists requires men to register when they are 18. There is no way to register as a Conscientious Objector. Many men do not register (only 88% are in "compliance" according to the SSS.) States and the federal government make it hard for men who choose not to register for reasons of conscience. Many states will not issue a driver's license, photo ID for voting, or allow these men to receive federal financial aid for college. Without a government issued ID, one cannot vote in some states, or cannot fly in an airplane or buy a train ticket. Since the time registration began in 1980, only 20 people have been prosecuted. the government invested a lot of time and money into these prosecutions, but it hasn't deterred others from not registering. And the government has not prosecuted anyone since 1986. Many of those few who were prosecuted were conscientious objectors whose non-compliance was for religious, moral or political reasons.</p> <p>There is no need for registration. The all-volunteer military provides more than enough volunteers. The expense of keeping the SSS in operation exceeds \$25 million. It would be more expensive, almost double the current budget, to add the requirement for women to register.</p> <p>I urge the Commission to eliminate the registration process so that people of conscience are not considered felons and can remain true to their consciences. If the Commission decides that registration has value and should continue, the SSS must provide a way for people to register as conscientious objectors.</p> <p>Sincerely, Karen Morris Avondale Estates, GA [REDACTED]</p>

9/28/18	<p>The U.S. National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service,</p> <p>Please end selective service and draft registration. Forced service is not acceptable in this century.</p>
9/28/18	<p>Dear Members of the Commission,</p> <p>The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) was founded in 1943 by members of the Religious Society of Friends. From our earliest days, we have opposed universal conscription, based on the principal of individual conscience. Many Friends throughout history have exercised the call of their inward religious and moral conviction to oppose war and avoid any participation in violence that would be required by military service. Today, FCNL lobbies Congress and the administration to advance peace, racial and economic justice, and environmental stewardship. We are nonpartisan organization, governed by a General Committee of 180 Quakers from across the United States. FCNL seeks to live the Quaker values of integrity, simplicity, and peace as we build relationships across political divides to advance public policy for a more just and peaceful world. We offer the following comments on the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service’s: Request for Information on Improving the Military Selective Service Process and Increasing Participation in Military, National, and Public Service.</p> <p>We seek a world free of war and the threat of war. We are opposed to the militarization of U.S. foreign and domestic policy, including the training of foreign military and paramilitary personnel and the use of U.S. military personnel in domestic policing.</p> <p>We oppose military conscription and Selective Service registration for men and women. We disagree that there is a “continuing need for a mechanism to draft large numbers of replacement combat 2 of 2 (9/28/2018) troops,” 1 to the United States armed forces. Military expansion provokes fear, resentment and potential retaliation. Peace and security can be achieved only by peaceful means.</p> <p>Those who choose to not register for Selective Service based on their conscientious objection to war and violence should not be penalized from accessing the federal benefits available to all citizens of this country.</p> <p>We oppose mandatory registration for all men and women for any compulsory national or military service. We know that this service can benefit our communities, and we affirm and encourage voluntary service. Our faith tradition upholds service to and for others as a value of the utmost importance. We believe individuals must have the freedom to discern how they will serve—and that community service should be with the permission and under the supervision of the community being served. We seek to promote the value of community service based on the principles of economic, racial and gender equity to foster a society with equality for all.</p> <p>Because we oppose mandatory registration and the right to of every individual to abstain from service, we support legal accommodations for conscientious objection to military service and military taxation. Individuals who decline to register with the selective service as an act of conscience should not be penalized from any benefits and opportunities provided by the federal government. It is important that a definition of conscientious objection continue to be included in the Selective Service code so that individuals who feel a moral calling to abstain from war.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the questions posed by the Commission.</p>

Sincerely,

Diane Randall, Executive Secretary

Friends Committee on National Legislation

1 <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/02/16/2018-03261/request-for-information-on-improving-the-military-selective-service-process-and-increasing>

9/28/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Service has inherent value. It creates opportunity for young adults to have experiences outside of their immediate community and social network friends. The question becomes what kind of service. It is time for us to commit ourselves to creating peace through service. 2. Giving young Americans the opportunity to choose Peace over War options begins to instill that service to one's country is the only way to secure peace for one's country and the world. For example, a young person can work with the U.N. in some capacity; or be part of "armies" that rebuild after weather disasters or corporate greed emergencies such as oil spills, as well as protection services like the military. 3. The major barrier to participation is the idea that public service means killing people. 4. How? By providing complete care for veterans. Why would anyone want to "serve" when they see veterans who are homeless and/or constantly fighting for care. 5. Instead of considering a draft contingency, consider rebranding participation in military, national and public service as PEACE KEEPERS with a focus on alternatives to killing. 6. The best modification to the selective service system is to have alternatives that do not include destruction of lives and property, and move toward diplomatic ways. 7. If mandatory service means only a military draft than no. If mandatory service is a type of civil service that helps young Americans become invested in the way countries create a peaceful world through diplomacy and caring government.
9/28/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Service has inherent value. It creates opportunity for young adults to have experiences outside of their immediate community and social network friends. The question becomes what kind of service. It is time for us to commit ourselves to creating peace through service. 2. Giving young Americans the opportunity to choose Peace over War options begins to instill that service to one's country is the only way to secure peace for one's country and the world. For example, a young person can work with the U.N. in some capacity; or be part of "armies" that rebuild after weather disasters or corporate greed emergencies such as oil spills, as well as protection services like the military. 3. The major barrier to participation is the idea that public service means killing people. 4. How? By providing complete care for veterans. Why would anyone want to "serve" when they see veterans who are homeless and/or constantly fighting for care. 5. Instead of considering a draft contingency, consider rebranding participation in military, national and public service as PEACE KEEPERS with a focus on alternatives to killing. 6. The best modification to the selective service system is to have alternatives that do not include destruction of lives and property, and move toward diplomatic ways. 7. If mandatory service means only a military draft than no. If mandatory service is a type of civil service that helps young Americans become invested in the way countries create a peaceful world through diplomacy and caring government.

9/28/18	<p>National Young Farmers Coalition Formal Comment on Docket No. 05-2018-01</p> <p>Contact: Andrew Bahrenburg, NYFC National Policy Director, andrew@youngfarmers.org</p> <p>The National Young Farmers Coalition (NYFC) represents, mobilizes, and engages young farmers and ranchers to ensure their success. We tackle the most critical structural and economic challenges that prevent motivated young people from succeeding in farming and ranching, and we believe that to pursue a career in farming or ranching is to engage in public service. To help bring young people into farm and ranch careers in this critical time of need, farmers should be added to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.</p> <p>Student loan debt is one of the key obstacles preventing young Americans from starting and finding success in agricultural careers. Farming is a capital intensive and risky undertaking, and accessing credit for farming is already difficult. When saddled with thousands of dollars of student loan debt, many young farmers are denied loans to launch or grow their farm businesses. In 2017 NYFC published a national survey report representing responses from 3,517 past, current, and aspiring farmers under 40 years old across the U.S. Among current farmer respondents, 29% identified their student loan debt as a significant challenge, with 10% citing it as the most significant one.</p> <p>The Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program helps Americans enter professions that provide a public good but have salaries too limited at the outset to manage student loan debt. The program covers nurses, doctors, public interest attorneys, government employees, and nonprofit professionals. If enrolled, these professionals make income-based student loan payments for 10 years. The balance of their federal loan debt is then forgiven. The program provides a powerful incentive for entry into these in-demand careers. Like other professions included in the program, farmers provide a public service: agriculture meets one of our most basic needs (producing the food we eat); farmers manage and steward almost a billion acres of land, (about half of the land area of the U.S.); and farmers support rural economies by providing jobs and spending at local businesses that support agricultural activities. Please consider modifying the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program to recognize this important form of public service.</p>
9/28/18	<p>Continuing registration or a draft for military service when this country is engaged in continual war, actually undermines the military. Forcing people to register or coercing through recruitment and advertising does not create an enthusiastic or dedicated force. Either way, it will erode the military from within. The branches of the military should investigate the underlying erosion of the attitude of citizens because we have dedicated ourselves to continual war. To continue on this trajectory will erode the American global influence and eventually erode dedication to defense of our country. Time for some internal discussions</p>
9/29/18	<p>please do not include women in the draft! please abolish the draft for men. Thanks</p>

9/29/18	<p>I am writing to urge the Commission to recommend ending draft registration. At the least there needs to be a process to claim Conscientious Objector status at the time of registration.</p> <p>Draft registration is not needed now. Despite maintaining this costly, intrusive system. It has not been used for 45 years. During this time we have fought the Gulf War, the war in Afghanistan and the Iraq war. In addition this country has used military force many times in many parts of the world. During all this time the military has been able to find recruits to continue these missions.</p> <p>The draft is not supported by most people. Most people do not register when they turn 18 and many never do. This despite harsh penalties for non-registration, including denial of student aid, government jobs and even driver's licenses. Criminal penalties are rare but when applies they are used mainly to silence leaders of the movement to repeal the draft.</p> <p>The increasing recognition of women's equality in society and in the military has led to calls to require women, as well as men, to register for the draft. This is extremely unpopular. Why not take this opportunity to end this expensive and ineffective system for men as well as women?</p> <p>A significant number of people are conscientiously opposed to war. The courts have recognized their right to avoid military for religious or stongly held moral reasons. However our current draft registration has no way to declare that they are Conscientious Objectors. The only opportunity will be if they are called up during a national emergency. At that time Selective Service will face many claims with little time to consider them. There is a danger that they will simply deny most claims without considering them seriously. It would be much better for everybody if these claims could be decided earlier, preserving objectors' rights and allowing the system to run efficiently in the event conscription needed. It would also encourage objectors to register. Currently their only way to declare their objection is to refuse to register.</p> <p>Sincerely Dan Goldstein [REDACTED] Port Townsend, WA [REDACTED]</p>
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9/29/18 Dear Madam or Sir:

I hope you will end Selective Service registration. I think efforts to educate everyone in our nation about ways to serve their community both in the private non-profit sector as well as in government at all levels would be a good thing. I don't think coercion to register for a draft is in harmony with our values.

Please keep in mind that the cost of Selective Service registration exceeds the \$25 million Selective Service budget: for example schools have the burden of verifying registration compliance for students, increasing their administrative costs, which get passed on to students at the college. Various state laws requiring registration compliance for state benefits (such as employment) add costs to a state's budget, yet offer no return. Extending the registration to women would increase those costs.

I've seen reports that the military could not take advantage of the rapid response of the current system because it would take longer to ramp up training than it would take to get folks registered by an alternative method. If the nation were threatened, I believe the response of volunteers would fill in until a draft could be implemented.

Rather than increase the numerous problems that exist with our current Selective Service System by extending the registration to women, the wise choice is to end the registration of men.

Finally, if the Commission finds that registration has value and should continue, they must require Selective Service to provide a pathway for people to register as conscientious objectors, and restore full rights to all people of conscience by overturning lifetime punishments. Doing so would enable people of conscience to be both in compliance with the law and true to their conscience.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Joe Taylor
Tucson AZ [REDACTED]

9/29/18

1. Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it?

If the question references service in the US military's endless and mostly fruitless wars, it has less than zero value from my spiritual perspective. This visionary pointed it out well:

"The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it. Through violence you may murder the liar, but you cannot murder the lie, nor establish the truth. Through violence you may murder the hater, but you do not murder hate. In fact, violence merely increases hate. So it goes... Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that."

~Martin Luther King, Jr. (1967)

"Where Do We Go From Here?"

As to service of our nation in nonviolent actions intended to unite and elevate mankind as a whole, yes, that type of service has value on many levels. Perhaps at the top of the value list is how it might add to an individual's understanding of morality and foster empathy for all life—that would enrich our entire society.

2. How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve?

By ending our nation's never-ending and fruitless wars, and focusing our limited and ever-dwindling resources on actions that will lead to world peace. Ending world hunger would be a great first step. Slashing our already-bloated military budget and placing those resources in humanitarian hands is what the founder of our nation's most practiced religion advocated, and it's what will surely lead us to eventual peace. In my understanding, that is the Supreme lesson behind the command to "turn the other cheek."

3. What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service?

A decent salary for new recruits and individual conscience are the two main drivers that keep our youth from participation in our military. Statistics show about thirty-percent of our soldiers are on food stamps or some other form of assistance, to many that makes viewing "service" as a career path seem irrational at best. America is a self-professed Christian nation; a follower of Jesus has a moral mandate to love their fellow man, and to turn the other cheek if attacked. How can such a person be asked to engage in war and commit state-sanctioned murder?

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?

One idea might be to increase the material rewards for service to our nation. Another would solve several problems: open service up to ex-felons by passing a national law that once your sentence has been served your record is expunged. After all, taxation without representation is part of what our Founding Fathers made sure the Constitution forbid.

5. Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security?

No, not if soldiers are paid more, had a better support system once back home, etc., because more would join willingly. At the least we should reinstitute the contentious objector status that was available in the Vietnam War, and allow citizens who are morally against war to serve in positions that do not involve weapons.

6. Are modifications to the selective service system needed?

Yes.

7. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible?

It is not necessary, but it could have real and lasting value. Especially as regards serving our nation in humanitarian pursuits like, for example, working on farms that help feed the poor and hungry in our nation and abroad. Another idea would be working in field hospitals that allow the poor access to needed health, vision and dental care.

9/29/18	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I am writing to express my strong opposition to Selective Service registration. Instead of expanding it to include women, it should be ended for men. The draft is an immoral and outdated system; it comports with neither our ostensible freedoms as Americans nor the realities of modern warfare, which does not require tens of thousands of bodies for cannon fodder as in wars of old. A volunteer military is more than capable of defending our country, particularly as we mostly face non-state threats against whom conventional, large-scale fighting is not appropriate or effective.</p> <p>On a more personal note, as an active member of a historic peace church, I could not violate registering for the draft without violating the dictates of my conscience and God whom I follow. I believe following Jesus entails a commitment to nonviolence, even towards one's enemies, and I will not participate in war-making. Selective Service should not continue, but if it does, it must include robust protections for conscientious objectors. Currently, failing to register for the draft, for whatever reason, puts unjust and unreasonable penalties on a man for the rest of his life. These penalties by and large impact men in under-resourced, low-income areas and men of color. This is unjust and unconstitutional. Again, rather than expanding this to include women, it should be ended for men. There is nothing more un-American than the government forcing people to deny their deepest convictions. As Ronald Reagan wrote in a letter in 1980, forcing Americans into military service “destroys the very values that our society is committed to defending.”</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>--</p> <p>In Peace, Abby LeMaire</p>
9/29/18	<p>I have kept a cartoon for over 50 years, that shows a Roman senator explaining to a young man, “It was not until I was too old to fight war that I realized war is necessary.” I believe one intent of the Second Amendment was that the people would go to war only when they as individuals were willing to risk their lives, rather than delegate this task to a standing army. Your intent is apparently to encourage young people to prepare for wars, while mine is the opposite, to encourage these same people to work to avoid wars. Once forced to register, then drafted, a soldier is forced to engage in a war that he/she may be violently opposed to, a decision made by those who are not actually doing the fighting. I wonder what the strategic value of such a reluctant soldier is to the war effort, much less to himself.</p> <p>If you have a righteous cause, the people will respond to the threat, without coercion. If they do not, the message is that the war does not have popular support, and that is an important message to government that MUST be respected, regardless of government’s opinion. A draft is coercion to force people to participate in a war they do not believe in, and has no place in a democracy. There are many of us who cannot find any good in any war: there are no “winners”, other than those who ordered it but did not participate.</p> <p>National service may perhaps serve a purpose, but only for those who can afford it or benefit from it. But, a military draft forces those opposed to war to participate in that to which they are fundamentally opposed, a rape of the soul. If draft registration is still to be required, at least provide an honorable conscientious objector option for those willing to serve their nation without forcing them to violate the dictates of their hearts. I personally see no intrinsic honor in those that choose to fight wars.</p> <p>Morality comes from within, not from external sources. Those that base their objection simply on teachings of a religion rather than personal conviction may as well be taking direction from government. Either way, they are taking orders from others, not from their soul.</p> <p>Bob Dylan wrote a song in the 60’s that expresses my feelings: “if God is on our side, He’ll stop the next war.” I have in the past, and intend to continue,</p>

	to fight wars by fighting wars--and to encourage others to do the same. This fight takes at least as much courage as those that tell themselves that it is acceptable to hurt others for political reasons. I have no right to force my desires upon others. Nor does my government.
9/29/18	Your phone website covers up all the pictures of women with a shaded message. Can you please fix that?
9/29/18	Your phone website covers up all the pictures of women with a shaded message. Can you please fix that?
9/29/18	I have asked for the release of the audio of your meetings with the public, and I still see no audio recording on your website or anything on youtube. What is taking so long? [REDACTED]

9/30/18

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for offering us the opportunity to comment on the issues before you, about which members of the Religious Society of Friends, commonly known as Quakers, are deeply concerned.

Quakers have a long history of religious and moral opposition to war. Many of us have become conscientious objectors and have done alternative service; some have refused to register for the draft and have been imprisoned. This opposition to war is rooted in the fundamental Quaker belief in the Inner Light—that of God in every person.

Also rooted in this belief is our Testimony of Equality—that all people are equal in the sight of God, and should be treated accordingly.

In accord with these two principles, we believe that:

1. Draft Registration has been a failure and a burden on millions of men and should be ended. The restrictions and penalties for men who haven't registered—in many states registration is linked with access to driver's licenses and state ID's, threatening access to the ballot box—may stay with them for the rest of their lives, even though they will never have been charged, tried or convicted of any crime. They may lose eligibility for college loans and grants, government jobs, job training, and for registration-age immigrants, citizenship. Such consequences are most commonly visited on those who, primarily for reasons of poverty, are not aware of the requirement to register or clear about how to do it, and on men who are conscientiously opposed to war. Thus, Selective Service Registration stands in violation of both our belief in equality and our opposition to war.
2. If Selective Service is not abolished, then we believe the law should be changed so that it applies equally to men and women. It should also provide a pathway for people to register as conscientious objectors, and restore full rights to all people of conscience, as well as to those who fail to register because of poverty, by overturning lifetime punishments.

Sincerely yours,

Corona Macheimer, [REDACTED] New York, NY [REDACTED]

Sally Campbell, [REDACTED] New York, NY [REDACTED]

Co-Clerks, Peace & Social Concerns Committee of Morningside Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

The substance of these comments was approved at a meeting of the Committee on September 16, 2018

9/30/18	<p>To the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service in response to request for public comment on the state of the draft in the USA – I support a reduction in the U.S. military and oppose its expansion. I’m 76 years old and know too much about the U.S. war history to support any draft and recruitment of U.S. citizens into a system that uses violence to as a strategy for resolving conflict and exerting power abroad. It is my hope that your commission acknowledges the negative role of our armed forces and steers U.S. policy in a new direction. I concur with Mr. Foisie’s statement below which is expresses the reasons and need for a humane way forward.</p> <p>Camille Russell  Fresno, CA </p> <p>From Greg Foisie on May 24, 2018 at 4:40 pm To the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service in response to request for public comment on the state of the draft in the USA – To Whom It May Concern –</p> <p>I was born in California. I am writing you regarding your review of the military selective service process. Please bear with my response as I offer this background for my suggestions.</p> <p>I am opposed to all forms of violence. First, I feel society should endeavor to prevent violence by being honest about its past and current values, incentives and actions. We should be willing to see and acknowledge the effects of both direct and indirect violence our society has perpetuated for hundreds of years. Secondly, in recognition of our violent past and present, I support the creation of new social values, incentives and actions that extol and exemplify nonviolence, kindness, goodness, caring and sharing.</p> <p>I do support public service that supports the well-being of everyone, and feel it is best accomplished by personal initiatives of our citizenry. I would support public effort to actualize such real ends that does not mandate through conscription, bur encourages others over time through truth, example, and public discourse. I believe that altruism, idealism and honesty are effective ways to create better world that is universal and sustainable. History has shown us again and again that domination is eventually doomed to failure. Military invasion, destabilization and puppet regimes are oppressive and destructive, causing unimaginable pain and suffering that endure through generations. If we engage in such practices they and their effects will be our legacy to our children and others around the world.</p> <p>Despite what almost all countries do in terms of glorifying the military through pronouncements and speeches, movies, medals, honors, uniforms, anthems & parades, and so on, the reality is that the military teaches people to kill others, threaten to kill others, and destroy their countries infrastructure and communities, implementing these skills and ends as authorities desire. This is morally wrong and unacceptable. Instead, we should be working with each other to diminish our reliance on militarism and work towards real world well-being, harmony and love. To equate invasion and military occupation with kindness, good will and doing right has never been true and is not true now. We are living falsehoods to endeavor otherwise. Such realization has led to many veterans to turn against past and current national policies.</p> <p>I grew up in a military family. I have family members and close family friends in law enforcement and the military. I respect the need for defense, but 1) empirical study has determined that violence/punishment is the least effective method of changing human behavior, and 2) defense is often used as an excuse for engaging in offensive violence when in fact we engage in violence primarily because elements of our society gain at the expense of the</p>
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suffering of others. This condition is not good and it is not right. If the committee is willing to be honest, you will realize with study that these are accurate perceptions.

I am telling you all of this because the draft is used to perpetuate our use and reliance on violence in order to advance our interests. This is immoral. We should end the draft completely, downsize our military, stop invading and militarily occupying other countries, and apply our resources and capacities to loving for and caring for others in need here at home and all over the world. In this way we can better establish and protect our security in true fashion, remaking the world into one of beauty, generosity and caring – the way we were meant to live. This is both human choice and capacity.

Thank you for reading and considering my comments. Respectfully,

9/30/18	<p>September 30, 2018</p> <p>To members of the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service, As members of diverse faith communities who value service to God’s world, we have particular interest in the Commission’s mandate to find ways to engage communities in public service. We also are concerned about Selective Service registration and its implications for freedom of religion, belief and conscience, and equal protection under the law.</p> <p>Despite often strident national conversations defending “religious liberty,” the United States has a long history of discrimination against people of faith and conscience who object to cooperation with war and the preparation for war, including Selective Service registration. It has been affirmed by all branches of the US government - the Supreme Court, Presidents, and Congress - that the primary purpose of registration with Selective Service is to be prepared for war. This means that even the act of registration can be a violation of conscience for many people of different faith traditions and beliefs. As you know, when individuals fail to register – for reasons of faith or otherwise, they can be punished, through a variety of life-altering sanctions, without due process. There is no provision under the law to accommodate religious beliefs within the current Selective Service System registration process. This must change, and the simplest way to accomplish this is to abolish the registration requirement for all.</p> <p>If, following its deliberations, the Commission recommends retaining Selective Service registration, a provision to allow people to register as conscientious objectors should be initiated. This is essential to ensure that religious beliefs are accommodated. In addition, those who can no longer register because of their age should have their sanctions lifted and their full rights restored.</p> <p>Also under the Commission’s consideration is the issue of national service. Many of our faith communities sponsor voluntary service programs. We applaud government programs to encourage service, such as the Peace Corps and Americorps. We oppose mandatory civilian or military service. We believe, and have learned through our experiences, that genuine service comes from the heart—not coercion. We would hope that proposals for engaging people in service will recognize and support the many voluntary service programs that currently exist throughout our communities, rather than try to compete with them. These and other civiliandirected programs have not been funded or promoted on the same scale as military service. We believe that civilian service should be incentivized equally, with benefits similar to those offered by the Armed Forces available to all, even those whose religious beliefs prevent them from participating with war.</p> <p>We look forward to seeing your proposals.</p>
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Thank you.

Signed:

National Council of Churches
110 Maryland Ave NE, Suite 108
Washington, DC 20002
202-481-6689

nationalcouncilofchurches.us

Church of the Brethren Office of Peacebuilding and Policy
337 North Carolina Ave SE
Washington, DC

vbateman@brethren.org

Mennonite Central Committee U.S.

Rachelle Lyndaker Schlabach, Director

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National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund

Malachy Kilbride, Executive Director

2121 Decatur Place, NW

Washington, DC 20008

202-483-3751

<http://info@peacetaxfund.org>

Center on Conscience & War

1830 Connecticut Avenue NW

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centeronconscience.org

9/30/18 September 30, 2018

Comment on Military Draft and Public Service

We are writing to urge that any changes to the selective service laws incorporate an option for those who are conscientiously opposed to participation in war. We are Mennonites and part of the Anabaptist Christian tradition. Our religious tradition holds that military service is contrary to the teaching of Jesus, who taught us to love our enemies: “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.”(Matthew 5, 43-44)

Below we describe some of the history of Mennonites that indicates refusal of military service and a commitment to peaceful alternative service such as that offered in military drafts since World War II.

Schleitheim Articles of 1527. This was the first statement of Anabaptist beliefs. Article VI states that Anabaptists will not serve as soldiers: “The use of the sword is outside the perfection of Christ...”

Early Writings of Menno Simons. The Mennonite Church is named for Menno Simons and he was a pacifist: “The prince of peace is Jesus Christ... True Christians do not know vengeance.... They are children of peace... they walk in the way of peace.”

Martyr’s Mirror. This book, published in the 1600s, contains stories of martyrs of Christianity with an emphasis on Anabaptists. The story of Dirk Willems (d. 1569) illustrates the love of enemies that Jesus taught. Dirk was imprisoned in the Netherlands for his faith. He managed to escape by fleeing across a frozen river. However, a man following and attempting to capture him fell through the ice and was drowning. Dirk returned to pull his pursuer from the river. As a result, Dirk was captured and burned at the stake.

Peace Witness in North America. In 1778, ten Mennonite families who refused military service were ordered by a court to leave Pennsylvania and all their belongings were confiscated and sold. In World War I, many Mennonite young men went to prison as a result of their refusal of the draft. Joseph and Michael Hofer died at Fort Leavenworth as result of mistreatment. In World War II, more than 3000 Mennonite conscientious objectors served in mental hospitals as alternate service. Mennonite young women volunteered to work in mental hospitals even though they were not subject to the draft. The experiences of these volunteers led to an improvement in mental health care through the US after the war. There have been Mennonite conscientious objectors to every draft since World War II.

Amish Forgiveness. In 2006, 10 Amish school children were murdered in Nickel Mines, PA. Rather than seeking vengeance, the Amish responded by forgiving the murderer. The Amish are also Anabaptists and these events illustrate how to love one’s enemies.


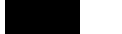
Mennonite Service Activity. Many Mennonites feel called to engage in service work (even in the absence of a military draft) to illustrate that difficult

circumstances in our world can be addressed through nonviolent action. Mennonite Central Committee and Mennonite Disaster Service are two organizations that do important service work.

Sincerely yours,
The Youth Christian Education Class, Madison Mennonite Church
Mark Ediger
Hannah Gingrich
Elinor Kosek
Lydia Oakleaf
Daniel Quintanilla

9/30/18	<p>The Church of the Brethren has long emphasized the importance of giving back to our communities through service, and also the importance of living in peace. The potential implications of the Commission’s proposal on both public service and military service are of utmost concern to our denomination as we seek to live out our call to both service and peacemaking.</p> <p>The Church of the Brethren has taken a strong stance on the importance of religious freedom, especially as it relates to conscientious objectors. The Church has affirmed that “all war is sin,” and our peace heritage is something that our denomination takes very seriously. This has included support for conscientious objectors who live out their faith by refusing to register for Selective Service or support military action.</p> <p>Despite often strident national conversations defending “religious liberty,” the United States has a long history of discrimination against people of faith and conscience who object to cooperation with war and the preparation for war, including Selective Service registration. Because the primary purpose of registration with Selective Service is to be prepared for war, even the act of registration can be a violation of conscience for many people of faith. When individuals fail to register – for reasons of faith or otherwise, they can be punished, through a variety of life-altering sanctions, without due process. There is no provision under the law to accommodate religious beliefs within the current Selective Service System registration process. This must change, and the simplest way to accomplish this is to abolish the registration requirement for all.</p> <p>If the Commission recommends retaining Selective Service registration, a provision to allow people to register as conscientious objectors should be initiated. This is essential to ensure that religious beliefs are accommodated. Those who can no longer register because of their age should have their sanctions lifted and their full rights restored.</p> <p>Also under the Commission’s consideration is the issue of national service. Our denomination has demonstrated our commitment to service with a variety of short and long-term service programs. Brethren Volunteer Service places volunteers serving in soup kitchens, homeless shelters and other non-profits across the country. Church of the Brethren members also participate in shorter term service projects through Children’s Disaster Ministry and Brethren Disaster Service. These opportunities are a valuable way for us to strengthen our communities.</p> <p>While we are strong proponents of service, we have learned through our experiences that genuine service comes from the heart, not coercion. We oppose mandatory civilian or military service. We would hope that proposals for engaging people in service will recognize and support the many voluntary service programs that already exist.</p> <p>Sincerely, Church of the Brethren Office of Peacebuilding and Policy, vbateman@brethren.org</p>
9/30/18	<p>Registering for government or better yet, national service is a fine idea for men and women. So is requiring service as long as it meets an individual's ethical standards (no military service for conscientious[sp?] objectors, medical service for those object, etc.) Of course there must be waivers for health, family or other valid reasons and compensation sufficient for a reasonable lifestyle.</p>
10/1/18	<p>I am writing to share my views on Selective Service Registration. I think it is time that we end this. Draft registration is expensive. It is unnecessary. It is unfair to those who are Conscientious Objectors, since there are no provisions to register as a Conscientious Objector. It is unfair that only men are required to register. Draft registration is coercive and has no place in a free and democratic society. I urge you to discontinue Selective Service Registration. Thank you. Richard A. Zechiel, Ostrander, Ohio</p>

10/1/18	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the topics of military, national and public service.</p> <p>Mennonite Central Committee U.S. is a relief, development and peacebuilding organization, established in 1920. Our constituent churches includes many of the historic peace churches within the Anabaptist tradition, including Mennonite Church USA, Brethren in Christ, U.S. Conference of Mennonite Brethren, Beachy Amish, Conservative Mennonite Conference and Fellowship of Evangelical Churches.</p> <p>These churches hold a 500-year commitment to Jesus' teachings on peace and nonviolence. Our ultimate loyalty is to God and the worldwide community of faith. We believe that war violates our call as Christians to nurture and respect the image of God in all persons and to build communities of peace that break down walls built by nationalism, racism and economic disparity. From the beginning of the Anabaptist movement, we have also been strongly committed to religious freedom and the separation of church and state, and we are grateful for the religious freedom that is granted by the U.S.</p> <p>Service has been a key way in which our church members express their faith and many choose to participate in short-term and long-term voluntary service programs run by Mennonite agencies. At the same time, we feel strongly that service grows out of our faith commitment and must not be coerced by government.</p> <p>We also know well that conscientious objectors, from our own member communions and others, have experienced hardship and suffering as a result of their decision to serve nonviolently, rather than in the military. We appreciate the willingness of the U.S. government during the Second World War and in the succeeding decades to work with Mennonites, Quakers, Brethren and others to implement alternative service programs during wartime that were acceptable to all parties.</p> <p>But the requirement to register with Selective Service has remained a hardship for young men who, as a matter of conscience, cannot join the military but need financial assistance for college, photo identification and other basic needs.</p> <p>For these reasons, we offer the following to the Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We oppose mandatory civilian or military service. As noted above, service is a deeply-held value of our faith tradition, but it must be voluntary and not coerced. • We urge that mandatory registration with Selective Service be eliminated. • If registration is not eliminated, there should be an option to register as a conscientious objector at the time of registration. <p>We would be happy to have further discussion about this matter. We may be contacted through Jesus Cruz, MCC U.S. Associate Program Director, at jescruz@mcc.org or 717-859-1151.</p> <p>Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.</p> <p>J Ron Byler Executive Director</p>
10/1/18	<p>I believe that every individual should serve in some capacity but not necessarily in the military. We need to do major revisions to many of our "systems"/"ways of doing things" in the US. I chose to serve in the military but would have been horrified at being forced to do so. There should be</p>

	<p>many choices to serve our country . There are certainly many needs. A lot of good could be accomplished through service and by paying people a living wage.</p>
10/2/18	<p>RE: question #2 When young Americans see constant news coverage of how The Department of Veterans Affairs mistreats Veterans when they age and return home, why would anyone put their life in danger? It's a National disgrace. "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by our nation." -- George Washington It can't be addressed any better.</p> <p>RE: Question #5 & #7, Not only is it necessary for National Security it is necessary for National Pride, an experience you will remember for the rest of your life. Everyone who reaps the benefits of being an American should participate in what keeps us Americans. Love us or hate us, the Military protects and sustains the very society we all enjoy and take for granted.</p>
10/3/18	<p>Draft registration has been a failure.</p> <p>It is coercion.</p> <p>Its cost exceeds budgeted amounts.</p> <p>It is unneeded.</p> <p>If it is to continue, it should provide a conscientious objector status.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>--Mark M Giese  Racine, WI </p>
10/3/18	<p>Mandatory service = involuntary servitude. Involuntary servitude is prohibited by the 13th Amendment. Period. End of discussion.</p>
10/3/18	<p>If this is the land of the free, then a free person has full ownership of his own body -- where it goes, when it goes, what it does. If a master or a group of overlords can -- as with a draft, mandatory service -- command his body to be anywhere, doing anything against his own consent, then he is not the owner of his person. He is owned by another. He is a slave. A slave who is "fighting for freedom and democracy." No contradiction there.</p>

10/4/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft registration is unnecessary. The military has enough volunteers for military service. 2. The cost of Selection Service registration is excessive and unnecessary. 3. As a member of a historic peace church and a conscientious objector during the Vietnam War, I would ask that if registration continues that there be a pathway for people to register as conscientious objectors so they could be in compliance with the law and their conscience.
10/4/18	<p>Making military, national, public or any other "service" mandatory is antithetical to the ethos of personal freedom that this country espouses in the Bill of Rights protecting against coercion by "democratic" government against individual citizens, and in such phrases as "the land of the free" in the national anthem. The last thing people should be forced into is to become killers in the military. If the government continues its maintenance and expansion of its vast worldwide military empire, along with its ruinous debt-subsidized "defense" budget, and perpetual warfare against people in other parts of the world, it should at least have to convince people to volunteer rather than having the easy option of forced conscription. Therefore the selective service system should be abolished, not expanded. If it is not, Conscientious Objection (without forced "alternative service") should be an easy option for anyone who wishes to opt out.</p>
10/4/18	<p>About Selective Service: responses/comments to questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Yes. Absolutely. Service is a matter of Loving your neighbor as yourself. 2) Give them something inherently worth doing: giving life, goodness, beauty, and truth to other persons. Let's not increase fear and violence. Life involves suffering and service calls for sacrifice for the good of others. Let it bear good fruit. The WPA projects were steps in that direction. The Peace Corps and VISTA also, in their ways. 3) Many people do not want to participate in bringing lethal force to assert our will in a world of neighbors whose cultures we do not understand/share. We do not have a national or public service on a par with the military. 4) Offer national and public service with opportunities for disciplined, beneficial work, education, and travel and with pay and benefits at least equal to those in the military. 5) Ordinarily, no. But there could come emergency situations in which it would be necessary to quickly mobilize the nation's able-bodied and able-minded forces effectively. Some sort of registration for service might be helpful. But it need not/should not be required for only military service. 6) Military service should not be required for men or for women. If there is a required military draft, it should include an option for conscientious objection. 7) Required (two years of?) military or non-military service for Americans would be an opportunity for great good for people. It would necessitate a huge shift of national priorities and budgeting, yet it would improve our lives and legacy. <p>In short, I urge a change from registration for military service to registration for required two years of national or public service that includes non-military service options in education, infrastructure repair, construction, environmental conservation, medical care, social service, etc. The emphasis should still be on disciplined service, but less on military than on other ways to improve the human condition at home and internationally. This would necessitate a huge shift of national priorities and budgeting, yet would improve our lives and legacy.</p> <p>Joseph Crowley Montgomery, AL</p>

10/4/18	<p>End required selective service (draft) registration for men. Do not begin requiring that women register. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service."</p>
10/5/18	<p>I am in agreement with mandatory service that encompasses local , State & Federal public service and not only armed forces. If it were economically possible to serve one year or two years with the peace corps or military or be a fellow/intern with government between highschool and post-secondary education then many would be ready and willing to serve but there are too many youths joining the private sector workforce while in highschool or immediately after because that additional income is needed to maintain the household. Post-secondary education seems unattainable because of cost of living and the actual cost of the tuition or useless because having a degree would mean a large majority of the income post graduation will go to pay off the student debt and the debt would follow you for a large part of your adult life. Wages are not livable for a large part of the nation and for that reason public service is just not an option.</p>
10/5/18	<p>I am in agreement with mandatory service that encompasses local , State & Federal public service and not only armed forces. If it were economically possible to serve one year or two years with the peace corps or military or be a fellow/intern with government between highschool and post-secondary education then many would be ready and willing to serve but there are too many youths joining the private sector workforce while in highschool or immediately after because that additional income is needed to maintain the household. Post-secondary education seems unattainable because of cost of living and the actual cost of the tuition or useless because having a degree would mean a large majority of the income post graduation will go to pay off the student debt and the debt would follow you for a large part of your adult life. Wages are not livable for a large part of the nation and for that reason public service is just not an option.</p>

10/8/18

From: Ryan Leone

To: NCoS Jobs; NCoS Info

Subject: Commission Idea from Penn Student!

Date: Monday, October 8, 2018 11:16:54 AM

Dear NCOS Representatives,

I hope you're doing well! My name is Ryan Leone and I'm a senior at Penn in the LSM Program, earning two Bachelor's degrees in neuroscience from the College and healthcare management and policy from Wharton.

I'm reaching out since I've become quite interested in the mission of the Commission and I have an idea that might help facilitate its goal. As an aspiring Army physician, I spent this past summer as the first-ever intern at the Defense Health Agency, where some of my work involved proposing initiatives. One of the proposals I put together, which received support several Admirals and Generals, was a program to have Military Medicine Fellows at a variety of undergraduate schools that we are targeting for applicants. The slides that introduce this proposal are [HERE](#).

Although this slide deck is specific to military medicine, I think the concept could be applied more broadly to Public Service. Trained students at a variety of colleges throughout the country could serve as liaisons between military recruiters, the Peace Corps, City Year, and other service programs.

I'm not sure if this idea has been considered before, but if there is any interest in it, I'd love to chat with someone at the Commission about it or see if there are ways that I could help more generally. I've emailed Dr. Joe Heck separately to ask about his career, but I figured addressing this to the Commission emails specifically would be best.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to hearing from you and I hope you have a great day!

Best,

Ryan

Ryan M. Leone

University of Pennsylvania, Class of 2019

Roy and Diana Vagelos Program in Life Sciences and Management

College of Arts and Sciences | The Wharton School

10/9/18	<p>If the Commission finds that registration has value and should continue, they must require Selective Service to provide a pathway for people to register as conscientious objectors, and restore full rights to all people of conscience by overturning lifetime punishments. Doing so would enable people of conscience to be both in compliance with the law and true to their conscience.</p> <p>They could be allowed to do service with a service organization like it was approved years ago during the draft days.</p>
10/10/18	<p>Freedom is very important to me (an 88-year-old citizen) and, I believe, to America. Selective Service Registration is an unnecessary infringement on the freedom of Americans. Please abolish the Selective Service System as soon as possible. If you cannot at least end Selective Service Registration, please make sure people can register as conscientious objectors.</p> <p>Clarkson Palmer Kennett Square, Pennsylvania</p>
10/12/18	<p>The New Progressive Alliance at http://newprogs.org/ thanks you for taking comments on this important area. I speak as a retired US NAVY commander who served on active duty and in the reserves from 1981 through 2001. Though the draft had been discontinued by the time of my service, many judges gave people found guilty of miscellaneous crimes the choice of jail or joining the armed services. I can assure you these judges did us no favors. The men became administrative burdens either because they were not educated or intelligent enough to perform their duties or because they lacked motivation to work independently and required constant supervision. Forcing people into the modern armed services creates more problems than it solves. Certainly there is a legal problem in only drafting men; however drafting women as well as men is not the answer. It will have the same problem of bringing in unmotivated people which will be an administrative burden. The modern armed services need capable motivated people and cannot be babysitters for the uneducated and unmotivated. Registering for a military draft is no longer a necessary component of U.S. national security. Right now it is not even enforced. Having a law that is not enforced or taken seriously has costs of its own. Does service have inherent value? I think perhaps it does, to work there must be a national consensus that the service apply to everybody. Such a consensus is severely lacking right now. There is not now even a non-military alternative available for those who are motivated and qualified. The volunteer military has succeeded without the need for a draft. Keeping the draft for men or extending it for women would be counterproductive. Trying to impose a national requirement for service before there is a clear consensus on national service will be even more divisive for our country. Sincerely, Ed Griffith</p>

10/12/18	<p>Dear Commissioners: We find the opportunity to respond to the Commission’s request for public input on the matter of Military, National, and Public Service an important moment. Our concern for the people of our country and the people of the world means this opportunity is not taken lightly. Our work as a group is dedicated to those without a voice; the oppressed, marginalized, and endangered, wherever they may live. We members of the Chicago Anti-War Coalition (CAWC) condemn the US Government covert/overt wars against numerous countries thought the world. We support resistance to mandatory service, conscription, draft or any forced service to the Military, Government, and associated networks, whether through individual “conscientious objection” or the “conscientious objection” of the will of the people. The abdication by Congress of its role to represent the people in the declaration of war, through the AUMF and resulting expansion of Executive power has irreparably violated the Rule of Law and the foundation of Democracy. War is no longer understood by the people of the United States or people of the entire World as a defensive entity to maintain National Security. The world’s people rightly understand, as did Smedley Butler, a US Marine Corps General and winner of two medals of Honor who wrote in his book, War is a Racket (1935): “To summarize: Three steps must be taken to smash the war racket: We must take the profit out of war... We must permit the youth of the land who would bare arms to decide whether or not there should be war... We must limit our military forces to home defense purposes” (p 36,37). In 1961, President Eisenhower reminded us of the perils of the “Military Industrial Complex” in his Farewell Address (January, 1961). We now have further evidence that War is NOT the answer....it never has been...it is the problem. Our greatest defensive need is the rescue of our threatened planet. We urgently need to establish a Department of Peace and Ecological Survival. Patricia Hynes (retired professor of Environmental Health, Director of Traprock Center for Peace and Justice) presented the following declarations (climate and capitalism.com/2015/02/08pentagon-pollution): “-The US Military is the world’s biggest and most destructive polluter. Stopping the war machine is an essential part of saving the earth. –The US Military generates more toxic waste than the 5 largest US chemical companies combined. – The “war on terror” included massive federal funding for secret research on the most lethal bacteria and viruses with no known cure. –During and after the Pentagon wars, land mines and cluster bombs kill and maim while blocking agriculture in the poorest regions.” – The use of depleted uranium weapons in the Balkans and Iraq has left a long term legacy of cancer and birth defects among civilians. We also need to include examples from history of gratuitous Military violence that cannot be defended as part of our National Security: -The firebombing of Dresden near the end of World War II – The My Lai Massacre in Vietnam and other atrocities in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos – the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki – covert/illegal bombing of Cambodia – Guantanamo and all black sites.... use of torture....abandonment of due process, ...human rights violations. –Drone assassinations of citizens, including American citizens, in sovereign countries in undeclared wars without due process. Once we realign our objectives to the global mutual need for survival and the reality of mutual obligation to protect and equitably share resources, we can realistically begin to discuss the issue of “service”. Service will not be to a Military/Industrial/ETC hegemony but to Global Eco-Survival. The service of an individual will not be to provide profit the Military/industrial/Surveillance/Financial Complex. It will benefit human survival and perhaps, evolution of Humanity. Submitted by: Chicago Anti-War Coalition(CAWC)</p>
10/12/18	<p>To those responsible for Selective Service Registration: As an 86 year old male, I am not personally affected by Selective Service Registration. But I speak on behalf of my grandchildren and other youth who presently are required to register with Selective Service. 1) I do not believe the military draft is a necessary component of U.S. national security. Therefore, mandatory registration should be a moot issue and discontinued. 2) If Selective Service registration is maintained, those who are conscientiously opposed to war, should have provision to register as Conscientious Objectors and thus be in compliance with the law. Sincerely, Charles B. Longenecker</p>

10/12/18	Dear Sir or Madam: I believe that draft registration is both unnecessary and is a form of coercion that does not belong in our free + supposedly democratic nation. After 9-11, the military had enough volunteers that the draft was not activated. Is that not evidence that it is unnecessary? More importantly, the draft registration has been a huge burden on men who do not believe in participating in killing. Please institute an alternative path of service for conscientious objection if the draft has to continue. The draft certainly should not be widened to affect women. Thank you. Sincerely, Marjory M. Donn
10/12/18	Greetings: As a member of World BEYOND War, I'm writing to urge the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service to abolish the current U.S. selective service draft registration. As Congressman Daniel Webster stated on the House floor in 1814: "The administration asserts the right to fill the ranks of the regular army by compulsion...Is this, sir, consistent with the character of a free government? Is this civil liberty? Is this the real character of our Constitution? No, sir, indeed it is not.... Where is it written in the Constitution that you may take children from their parents, and parents from their children, and compel them to fight the battles of any war, in which the folly or the wickedness of government may engage it? Under what concealment has this power lain hidden...to trample down and destroy the dearest rights of personal liberty?" If the Commission chooses not to abolish draft registration, then the following should be implemented: 1. Any person should be allowed to register as a conscientious objector. 2. Persons should be allowed the free choice of choosing non-military service and the same educational benefits provided for military service should be granted for persons who choose non-military service. 3. Persons should be allowed to choose serving in qualified non-violent service alternatives such as the Nonviolent Peaceforce, Peace Brigades International and Christian Peacemaker Teams. The educational benefits, health and retirement benefits, sign-on bonuses, salaries and other compensation for choosing a non-violent service alternatives should be equivalent to the compensation and benefits for choosing military service. Respectfully, Alan Mytty, Coordinator, World BEYOND War Central Florida Chapter
10/12/18	As a member of World BEYOND War, I'm writing to urge the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service to abolish the U.S. selective service draft registration. My requests to the commission include: 1. End required selective service (draft registration for men. 2. Do not begin requiring that women register. 3. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. 4. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service." Additional Comments: The Selective Service and the Draft imposes an unnecessary cost to society. Paul A Pudill
10/12/18	As a member of World BEYOND War, I'm writing to urge the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service to abolish the U.S. selective service draft registration. My requests to the commission include: 1. End required selective service (draft registration for men. 2. Do not begin requiring that women register. 3. If not ended, allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector. 4. If there must be non-military service, make sure that its pay and benefits are at least equal to those of military "service." Additional Comments: I believe in a draft for public service only. Laurent F. Gilbert, Sr

10/12/18	It's time to end draft registration once and for all. Don't expand the draft to women. End it for everyone. Until the US is invaded by a foreign power, stop pretending that the draft is about anything other than empire and making the war mongers and bankers rich and powerful. Is there any means by which any number of individuals can delegate to someone else the moral right to do something which none of the individuals have the moral right to do themselves? Where do you or I get the right to force a person to register for the draft, how can we delegate a right we do not have? Where does the government get this power we the people do not have? Do those who wield political power have the moral right to do things which other people do not have the moral right to do? If so, from whom and how did they acquire such a right? Does this power come from the barrel of a gun? Is there any process (e.g., constitutions, elections, legislation) by which human beings can transform an immoral act into a moral act? Is the constitution magical? Are elections magical? Are the opinions aka legislation of some human beings known as politicians divine? When law-makers and law-enforcers use coercion and force in the name of law and government, do they bear the same responsibility for their actions that anyone else would who did the same thing on his own? Can you or I draft a person to cut our grass or pick our cotton? How is it wrong for us to use coercion and force but not for the law-makers and law-enforcers? When there is conflict between an individual's own moral conscience, and the commands of a political authority, is the individual morally obligated to do what he personally views as wrong in order to "obey the law"? How can those who morally object to draft registration opt out? Sincerely, Don Hautsch
10/12/18	Dear Chairs and Committee; We understand the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service has received a mandate to consider continuation of Selective Service registration and that a period for public comment is open through September 2018. Third Haven Friends, a member of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, expresses the following interest: "As Quakers, we find no occasion for war and seek to recognize that of God in everyone. We are in favor of ending registration for the Selective Service as a process to send young citizens solely to military service for the United States of America. Additionally, we are adamant that citizens have the option to declare as Conscientious Objectors." Thank you for considering Third Haven Friends input of the continuation of mandatory Selective Service registration. We are a membership of 125 participants located in Easton, Maryland. We are available for further discussion and can be reached at www.thirdhaven.org . Sincerely, Mary B. Brian Clerk, THMM
10/12/18	I support a military draft because it is more equitable and would not be class/income based. However, and in that I am a Mennonite, a historic peace church, I believe conscientious objector status should be provided. Non-military public service, such as the old Civilian Public Service, is encouraged; it would provide skill development and promote needed public services.
10/13/18	You are implementing your commission wrong. You have failed to engage public discussion on the female draft. You will need to change how you set up your meetings. You'll need to copy the way debates are set up. Take for example I Q squared, their debates are enjoyable to listen to. Your town meetings are boring and do not cover the topic of selective service nearly enough. Everybody knows how to serve and most people want to, what holds them back is that they don't have the money to volunteer. Stop wasting everybody's time talking about ways people can volunteer when we are all too poor to give up our time without compensation.
10/15/18	It would be a good idea to have a gender-neutral solution that involves both a military and civilian component. Perhaps engaging people in community service/volunteer work.
10/15/18	The Selective Service System as it exists today is outdated. It would be great it morphed into something that's more universal. Renaming it "Serve America System" would be a great start. The idea of morphing it onto something like a "Serve America System," where men and women (treated equally) can register for any service, whether it's military, national, public service --- would be most appropriate. This is something most people can agree on. It's logical, it's sensible, and it's positive.

10/17/18	<p>As someone who has been in the army (and would honestly love to be able to serve again, if it was an option), I believe that a draft would help this country immensely. We need a force that spans every possible demographic, and I think that it would be extremely wise to tailor medical and fitness profiles to each job. While it sounds wonderful to have a force that is made up entirely of pristine, young, buff, agile, or otherwise physically gifted warriors, it is simply not realistic. There was a time when, due to a relative lack of medical knowledge and testing methods, a vast number of people (who would be disqualified under today's standards) would have gone on to serve honorably in spite of any conditions or issues they might have had, and this is something that should be seriously considered if the choice is made to modify accession standards. Would it be ideal to have a force of programmers, translators and linguists who can run a sub-seven minute mile and crank out push-ups and sit-ups as fast a fat kid can put away a jumbo-sized bag of M&M's? Of course. Unfortunately, fantasizing about building a modern day Roman legion isn't going to fill the ranks. The bottom line is, we need to stop clinging to old, ridiculous, and often counterproductive traditions like a security blanket and use some common sense. Cybercom troops aren't likely to find themselves running around, dodging bullets on a foreign battlefield. Why narrow your pool of potential brains (and by brains, I mean intellectually-gifted powerhouses) because their physiques aren't perfect? Yeah, some of us have medical problems, but honestly, things like bad knees and sleep apnea aren't going to affect someone's ability to sit at a desk and code/translate like a savant. Don't even get me started on tattoos. We have come to a point where we have a national security threat that is bigger than any army could ever be: The rapid degradation of the social bonds that hold our democracy together. People are isolated and bored. The vast majority of Americans feel like they have no purpose in life (let's not kid ourselves here; no normal human finds personal satisfaction or meaning in performing mundane, repetitive tasks for Amazon. And this is true for the employees of the vast majority of corporate enterprises. These jobs are not only uninspiring, but utterly demoralizing for those of us with a brain and a desire to be part of something greater than ourselves). When people get bored, they destroy things. They start doing drugs. They overeat. They fight over things that aren't important. They kill each other. We've seen this in the military. It happens in civilian life too. That's why Americans are breaking up into political factions and warring with each other. They need a common cause, and it would be in our best interest as a society to make sure they pursue one that doesn't involve ripping the country apart in the name of boredom-induced radicalism.</p>
10/19/18	<p>RE Abolishing Draft Registration: A veteran of the Iraq war said he did not believe a system that relied on fear, threats, and punishment could lead to real service. He spoke of the U.S. military, but it easily could be applied to the "Selective Srevice" and coercive registration. Young people need to feel motivated tos erve - and the dRAF is not a model of service. Anyone who is called by conscience NOT to participate in anyway in war must be allowed to become a conscientious objector. Peace and Blessings, Judith Kelly.</p>

10/19/18	<p>Marin Corps League. "Extending Selective Service registration to all Americans: How does your organization view extending the Selective Service registration requirement to all Americans, particularly women? Does this perspective hold true across your membership?" Selective Service should include all Americans regardless of gender. A draft of these persons should not automatically be for combat units. This perspective is shared across the membership. "Are there any circumstances under which your organization would support standing conscription as opposed to the current system of a draft contingency?" The organization would support that there would be circumstances the standing conscription would be better than the current system. Especially in an excessively large mobilization similar to WW2. The quality of individuals matriculating into the military are better because they are a volunteer force. Any change in accession policy may be met with skepticism if those changes hamper the ability to join qualified personnel of appropriate character and physicality to meet the requirements of military service. If recruiting efforts fail to fulfill mission, a draft or standing conscription may need to be instituted. "The commission has heard from some communities that using the draft would have been appropriate to support the increased need for personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan. Under what conditions would your organization support the use of the draft?" The draft has not been necessary up to this point because services were meeting recruiting mission goals. At some point, they will identify critical failure if they do not increase manpower. An all-volunteer results in a better qualified team. If recruiting efforts fail to fulfill mission, a draft or standing conscription may need to be instituted. Given the highly technical skill-sets required for some military occupational specialties (MOS), standing conscription may not bring aboard the skill-sets needed. rather, there will be bodies in seats performing ineffectively. "with your unique perspectives as veterans, spouses, family members, and members of the military community, are there any other issues you'd like to raise to the attention of the Commission?" People exiting the military set the example for military service and resulting abilities (work skills, mental health, etc.). Military members are losing their tribe when they exit service and America needs to figure out how to be a tribe for our veterans (see Tribe by Sebastian Junger). Increase technical skill certifications prior to separation (Corpsman become EMT-P, Electricians become Journeymen, etc.) "Any other questions as it related to the scope of the Commission's work?" Q1: Absolutely. Q2: Yes, to include all Americans regardless of gender. Q3: Need to market to youth in their area (social media). Increase STEM program. Encourage and promote ROTC programs (especially ROTC scholarships). College being paid for enlisted on active duty in the military (Forever GI Bill still follows service). In middle school youth have already formed habits and opinions. In high school, these habits and opinions are difficult to change. Engage youth at an early developmental level to promote a sense of participation in something greater than themselves and a sense of community. Promote Community Service activity at all levels K-12 in schools. Community Service needs to start earlier. Need an organized process for developing a sense of responsibility in youth from K-12. Expand physical fitness, healthy eating, and portion controlled programs in youth. Encourage team building events and programs like sports. Q4: ASVAB testing results vs MOS manpower needs. Youth physical fitness in the general population. Drug abuse (gateway drugs, opioids, prescription, etc.) Behavioral prescription medication/medical history. Criminal History. Q5: Leadership, character building, skills development, educational opportunities, sense of self-worth, accomplishment, personal interaction skills, cultural diversity, and patriotism. Q6: A four-year mandatory requirement for civil service (military or other) would be welcomed if people meet qualifications. Q7: Need to market to youth in their area (social media). Encourage and promote ROTC programs (especially ROTC scholarships). College being paid for enlisted on active duty in the military (Forever GI Bill still follows service). In middle school youth have already formed habits and opinions. In high school these habits and opinions are difficult to change. Engage youth an early developmental level to promote a sense of participation in something greater than themselves and asense of community. Promote community service activity at all levels K-12 in schools. Community Service needs to start earlier. Need an organized process for developing a sense of responsibility in youth from K-12.</p>
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10/19/18	Please end the required selective service (draft) registration for men, and do not begin requiring that women register. If the draft is not ended, then allow the choice of registering as a conscientious objector.
10/19/18	I believe everyone should give 1 or 2 years service in the armed forces or other service area, regardless of sex.
10/19/18	I think women should be required to register for the draft. I believe women can provide a vital role during wartime even if it is in a support capacity. I don't think it is necessary to require all US citizens to serve in the military, it will just create a lot of expensive issues for the military and the taxpayer. I believe if you offer somebody a paid associates degree only, at a state level college only, not a private expensive college, in return for a 4 to 6 year military commitment is definitely feasible and economically sound idea.
10/19/18	<p>I'm retired VARNG with 20+ years and 2 deployments, I also had 3 Daughters 1 has committed suicide since my service .</p> <p>I believe if women truly want to be treated equally then they should be made to sign up for selective service.</p> <p>I've had some great leadership from women and not giving them a chance isn't fair for them.</p> <p>Also had a female Crewchief and Pilot or two that could keep up with the best of us.</p> <p>Hope this helps</p> <p>Sgt. Dana Lavallee (ret.)</p>
10/19/18	<p>If we retain the military draft or draft contingency then women should be required to register and serve just like the men. The underlying policy has changed as have other laws and policies where women are now serving in ground combat roles. I am a retired male field grade officer and women are fully capable and should be subject to the draft and if that is not possible then get rid of the draft completely and get rid of the need to register for it. Women can function as well as the men and I have seen it first hand in the field.</p> <p>We have been at war for 18 years in multiple theatres and have had no need for the draft, so why retain the expense of maintaining this system that is NOT being used and that is totally unfair and archaic since women, who serve in combat now, are excluded from it based on reasons that the vast majority of Americans apparently do not believe in any more.</p> <p>The last time the draft was used in Vietnam it provided so many exemptions that it was worthless as a unifying factor and many elite people avoided it altogether. This created resentment and a National Scandal. We have a great total force military and we don't need the draft. It is a dinosaur.</p> <p>Eliminating the draft would also allow the United States Code of Federal Regulations to be changed so as to formally designate the National Guard as the only legally recognized militia in the United States and make it clear that the National Guard is what is designated in the US Constitution as the "well regulated militia" and by doing this we will eliminate the legal basis for anyone but the United States National Guard claiming they are America's well regulated Militia.</p> <p>I served as a regular Army Officer, Reserve Officer and National Guard Officer to include on deployments and retired from the reserves with well over 26 years of duty and most of my duty was active duty to include two years on active duty post 9/11. The total integration of the US Army, Navy, Marine,</p>

	<p>and Air Force, Reserves, and Army and Air National Guard with active forces as we have it now provides a trained and ready contingency force that is formidable. If people don't want to serve, making them serve only brings disruption to unit operations. I commanded troops that were National Guardsmen in Bosnia and they were great because they were volunteers. The morale problems were minimal compared to the days when the volunteer Army was first instituted post Vietnam. I know, I am over 60 years old now.</p>
10/19/18	Yes to all the statements that you wrote and yes women and the draft sure be in acted.
10/19/18	<p>I believe serving in the armed forces should be mandatory for male and female right after high school or college should students decide on a college education.</p> <p>I don't feel there should be any incentive given for service. I do believe each individual should be given a mandatory 2 year active duty. Basic training would eliminate a lot of crime in this country because young adults lack core discipline. Plus a job skill during AIT would eliminate time wasted. They come out or stay in based on those two experiences but it should be mandatory for all to serve at least 2 years.</p>
10/19/18	<p>Sir: I am Richard Boll, HM2 USN 1961-1966. I respectfully recommend that women be selected as corpsman/medics to work in hospitals, dispensaries, clinics, and other non-combative medical situations. I personally believe that few women are mentally equipped to asses medical emergency combative situations. That is my opinion and not a clinical result.</p>

10/19/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I think that serving in our military builds character, instills discipline, and creates a comradery with others. 2. By informing them of skills and opportunities to learn skills useful in civilian life. 3. Lack of proper education and ability to live with others. 4. Making critical skills and jobs more appealing by raising pay levels in those fields. 5. I believe the draft is a necessary part for the defense of the USA. 6. Yes, all young persons should do some time in the military as in Israel. I believe many of them would then voluntarily stay or extend their time. 7. Yes. Although costly it would be a much more fair recruiting means and would provide the USA with a larger base of qualified individuals to serve again in National emergencies.
10/19/18	<p>Mandatory service for each and every High School Graduate. Public schools do not even come close to teaching young Americans enough about adulthood, responsibility, and good ol' American values.</p> <p>SFC Steven A. Andreas, USA, (Ret.)</p>
10/19/18	<p>Service gives an individual the feeling of providing something of Self to the USA, there by earning and protecting their rights. Our Nation NEEDS to teach our "unrevised" history in all grades of school through 14th yr of education, let it be known the sacrifices provided by prior generations to provide and protect our National Freedom. The main Barrier is the lack of a proper a proper Education. All three services should have the same high standards of Allegiance, Education and Desire. The U.S. can increase participation in military, national, and public service through proper Education K thru 14yrs of school. The military draft or draft contingency is still very necessary component of U.S. national security! The only modifications to the selective service system needed is to include both Sexes, Female and Male! A a mandatory service requirement for all Americans is necessary, is very valuable, and is feasible, this would provide the feeling of Patriotism, Self Worth and Self Esteem for all individuals participating as a Citizen of This Great Nation!</p> <p>Thank you for asking</p>
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10/19/18	<p>I wrote 1400 words and you kicked me off before I could punch submit. You owe me an apology. In condensed form, you have a history of deception on those who volunteer. It is simple, give information on positions available for training and whether they will undergo the training after basic and what % of trainees will go into combat. Sign them up and keep your commitment to give them what they signed up for.</p>
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10/19/18	<p>What about mandatory service to our country, Military or Selective Service. Other Countries I know have it fore Military. Based on sex and physical/ Mental, there should be something that they could do. I do have facts, but have heard complaints, that females get out rotations/ deployments because of pregnancy and other different factors between men & women.</p> <p>S/MSGT (retired) Lon D. Scott ██████████ Crowley, TX ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████</p>
10/19/18	Please bring back the "DRAFT". Our youth needs real "leadership" with discipline. For sure, they are not receiving much of this at home, at school or the so called professional athlete. Having worked with the military recruiters my last four (4) years of career service, only two (2) DOD services reached their quota on a regular quarterly basis. Recently, I read the US Army did not make quota. Ladies and gentlemen, wake up, listen to the cry of our youth. It's our turn to show the strength and example that our youth, not only deserves, but needs to be come producted citizens. The draft is the beginning. Thank you
10/19/18	I'm a female retired Air Force veteran. I'm also a retired high school teacher. Unless we are using the draft to put people into the military, there is no reason for 18 year olds to register. On the other hand, if men must register then females should have to do so. Equal opportunity!
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10/19/18	All U.S. citizens, male and female, should serve in some way. The military may not be the place for everyone, but public service of some type would engender a sense of civic price and patriotism in citizens. It's clear we need something to help bring us closer together.

10/20/18	<p>I understand that one of the issues you are exploring is the question should women be required to register with Selective Service. I say YES. Women are now an integral part of our Armed Forces, and they should be registered just as men are. Service in a National Emergency should not be an optional requirement for any of our citizens no matter what race, gender, or religious belief.</p> <p>The oceans that provided us with months and years to prepare for war are now only a few hours by air. We won't have the time that we had during World War I to take time to register qualified individuals. The names must already be in the system, ready to be called if necessary.</p> <p>I served in combat with women, and they have by far proven their capability to serve our country. It shouldn't be gender that determines who is required to register. All should register and those physically qualified should be called up when necessary.</p>
10/20/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Definitely. It exposes one to situations and people he/she would not otherwise meet. It makes one address his/her strengths and weaknesses. It teaches lessons otherwise unavailable. 2. Reward service. I was drafted during the Korean War, and so eligible for GI Bill education support. Getting a college degree changed my life. 3. Due process processing: unavoidable. 4. Reward service. 5. Yes. 6. Yes. Add women. 7. Yes.
10/20/18	<p>I believe women should volunteer for service and or assume combat support roles where available. If they chose a combat mission it should be voluntary!</p>
10/20/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes, service does have an inherent value. Not just military service, but all types of service are extremely valuable. It creates a sense of belonging and pride in community/country. 2. Maybe highlighting diverse stories of people serving their communities/country. Show the benefits of being involved. It has to involve all aspects of service, military, teaching, police, firefighters and others whose efforts and sacrifice contribute to the common good and demonstrate the ideals our country was founded upon. 5. Yes the military draft or draft contingency is still a necessary component of U.S. national security. 6. Yes, modifications to the selective service system are needed. It must be fair and equitable. That means both men and women should be required to register with selective service. Women have gone to great lengths to demonstrate that they can and do make significant contributions to our nations defense. They have integrated in almost all aspects of our military services for years and it is not only fair and equitable, but it is the right thing to do!
10/20/18	<p>Women should have to register for the selective service.</p>
10/20/18	<p>Serving the Country is an opportunity, not an obligation. We who have served (enlisted) in the military and, in my case, Vietnam did so because we wanted to give back and to honor our ancestors who answered to call. People who do not want to serve may not be suitable for military service but could serve in other areas. We all benefit from service. I am part of my county's Veterans Honor Guard. That continued service to community is in my</p>

	<p>blood. My family has served this country from the Revolutionary War through Iraq and Afghanistan and it is just who we are. We should not try to sell service, instead, we should inspire it.</p>
10/20/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes, it has value. It teaches people how to follow orders, have respect, work as a team member and teaches people a trade. 2. Use the internet better, make TV ads more appealing by offering training that is what young people like and do now. More computer based training programs because this is the future. 3. A lot of young people are afraid to get involved because of all the moves and stories about becoming disabled or disfigured. You need to show them that there is another side of joining. 4. You need to show them how their skills can help the world and explain what it is like to be able to help people in need, not just go to war. 5. YES, I think the draft is necessary and a great way to introduce men and women into the service and show them what it is all about. And at the same time teach them some skills they can use for the rest of their life. 6. Yes. All people male or female should be allowed to take whatever training they are mentally and physically able to do. Treat everyone the same. 7. YES, the same answer as for #5. Make the military look more appealing to more people by advertising IT jobs, medical jobs, and all the training you offer for FREE during their time in the service. Be more aggressive at advertising. Show and tell the world how great it is to be a part of something great, show them the family side of the service. <p>I hope this helps.</p>
10/20/18	<p>Since it so imperative that women serve in military units, especially combat positions, then they should register for the Selective Service, also. If we ever go into a draft again, everyone should be selected and no deferments for school. Only deferments if they are married and have children, or are physical unable due to proven physical disability.</p>
10/20/18	<p>With the often ubiquitous nature of today's battle space and the continuing trend to open all career paths to everyone, regardless of gender, it is appropriate to now require men and women register for the draft. As long as there are restrictions on government programs and employment that are tied to registering for the Selective Service, then the playing field needs to be level for all. I am a 27 Navy veteran, who faced the draft before the lottery, and I have 3 grand-daughters of the age to register now. I do believe that everyone should be registered and then apply for exemption under law as the case warrants.</p>
10/20/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes, as the service shows your loyalty to your nation, and is an inherent responsibility of every citizen. 2. You cannot, as schools indoctrinate against American Greatness. The only viable solution is a move to compulsory service. 3. The barriers are the left's desire to discontinue having a national identity, but rather a global one. 4. Have a compulsory service requirement for everyone before they reach the age of 25. 5. Until such time as a nationwide compulsory service requirement, yes the draft is needed, to ensure that we can reach and maintain the desired manning levels, whether on active duty or in the reserve components. 6. Since women claim to be equal to men, then they need to lose their exemption from registering for the draft, and have to participate in the selective service system. 7. As stated numerous times, yes! Every Citizen should be required to serve a minimum of 2 uninterrupted years of service, as we have multiple enemies (I.e. Russia, China, Iran, and PDRK), which have either military strengths of greater than that of our nation and/or nuclear capabilities, that

	<p>threatens our nation's very existence. In my humble opinion, as a 15 year veteran, I don't believe that anyone who has not served our nation with honor, should be called a citizen, and have the rights of a citizen, rather they should be considered nationals.</p>
10/21/18	<p>The inherent value of military service is discipline, learned technical and life skills, true teamwork, camaraderie, real experience in many different cultures/countries, development or a true world view, appreciation why the US is the best place to live.</p> <p>Mandatory service - not in the military. Personnel forced to be in the military are, typically, discipline problems. Supervisors, leaders and managers will spend 90% of their time on these persons and not on the people doing well and deserve the attention.</p> <p>Military Draft - With all the irregular warfare from asymmetrical threats, the draft needs to be continued since "we" cannot predict the future, I would suggest the age be 18-24 for both male and female. For females, married and/or with kids would not be exempt from the draft.</p> <p>Critical skills into service - in the civilian world, the pay and hours are better. In the military, there is no overtime, no sick time, no fringe benefits.</p>
10/21/18	bring back the draft is the to fill up the ranks
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10/21/18	I believe the draft should be brought back. Instead of the military being deployed more than once , this would help . As Americans it is our obligation to serve our country .
10/21/18	I am a veteran and a father of a son and two daughters. I support extending the selective service registration requirement to females. I also support some form of mandatory service for youth.
10/21/18	Women should volunteer to the resister to serve

10/21/18	<p>Yes the Selective service registration is still necessary !</p> <p>I think that the draft is still necessary & should include women even if not for combat, maybe civil engineers/Seabees.</p> <p>Remember they started manufacturing training, so advertise civil engineering, on tv as future job training! I've never seen the SEABEES advertised on tv, or the Civil Engineering Corps, or even the Army's civil engineering corps!</p>
10/21/18	<p>I call for an end to Selective Service registration. I believe military and public service should be voluntary, not mandatory.</p> <p>If Selective Service is maintained, then:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the registration process should be changed to allow conscientious objectors a way to register their objection to war, and - conscientious objectors to war must be allowed to participate in "alternative service" which is outside of any military service.
10/21/18	<p>I believe if one (man or woman) can, they should serve in the military for a minimum period, even if it is just a few years. In my 24 year Air Force career, I experienced myself and in all the years that followed... young people learning the service values, and gaining an understanding and respect for service to Country. If not for our military we would not have this great nation and if not for our great nation would we have what we have today? I believe if more of our citizens had the experience more would want to and more would serve longer than their minimum requirement, We could have more of the best of the best, talented, skilled, and ready to respond. And we could respond to so much more than national defense.</p> <p>Military service also has a significant academic role. In my 24 year career, I likely spent ten percent or more of that time in technical and leadership training. When I retired I took another service role in local government and served another 18 years, In addition the value of education was learned and took me through earning three college degrees on my own time with the tuition assistance programs available.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes, it provides the opportunity to learn, understand and respect the value of service, 2. No marketing campaign is going to provide the desire to serve to the degree it is needed... service must be valued and not for monetary gain but what one learns through serving, 3. There are too many barriers for entrance and the opportunities entrance provides to turn one's life around. Weight, minor mistakes youth make that give them, records criminal or drug related. And if one cannot serve in the military then public service and there needs to be more options for service. 4 - 7. There should be a minimum service (military or public) requirement of at least two years for all men and women to start before their 28th birthday. When all or most have served, more will want to stay longer and it becomes competitive... and the needed critical skills can be retained.

10/22/18 To whom it may concern;
I grew up when there was a military draft.
Most of the people I knew went when their draft notice came due.
When I joined it was volunteer (VOLAR) duty.
I served 20 years in the United States Army from 1975 - 1996.
During this time I went to war (Desert Shield/Desert Storm).
With a ten year study...I wrote a memoir "The War Within" by Lawrence J. Clark.
The generation growing up now...does not hold the country and serving as a patriotic duty.
They are interested in quitting there jobs and traveling.
Playing video games and blogging.
My son took the ASVAB test several times and did not pass.
I later found out he went and took the test because of me...but did not want to go and failed the test.
They just want to sit home and play video games and talk to friends.
You do not have to take my word.
You can research through the phone, game sites, blog sites, Facebook,and job employment records.
Unfortunately...the only way to meet your goals in the future is the draft for both men and women.
The economy is good and no reason for them to join.
The standards are to stringent for them so if they pass the ASVAB...they will never pass the physical part.
By enacting the draft... you will have to get them in shape for basic training.
To meet National Security and future goals the draft should be enacted as before; 18 -34 no exceptions.
Placement test can be administered to those who volunteer. The drafted ones fullfil the needs of our nation (no exceptions).
If they are in college; they go to Officer Candidate School (OCS) or ROTC.
If they leave the country...they need to lose their citizenship and labeled as a criminal.
This might sound severe but if you do not set high punishment for not serving military, national security or public service like Ameri Corps or Job Corps or peace corps...then the services will continue to drop and the ones that are willing will be less than 10,000 a year. This will end any and all goals set in the next 10 years.
Sincerely,
Lawrence James Clark
[REDACTED]
Westfield, NC
[REDACTED]

10/23/18	<p>The military draft does not have any value. It was ended for a reason and was highly unfavorable. To force it would be to undermine democracy itself. Additionally, the military would benefit more from committed people who choose to be there. Because of this, the military is more effective and more professional. A draft would dampen that. Therefore, Selective Service should cease to continue. The millions of dollars used to maintain a system that will not be used again could be used to benefit other areas of the country. The draft is immoral and heavily dated. Not only that, but the honor of serving will be irrelevant with a draft. And lastly, technological advancements make it so that mere cannon fodder is obsolete. So, no, women should NOT have to register, but neither should men. A military draft is unfavorable, outdated, and impractical, and so is the Selective Service System. Use that money for better.</p>
10/23/18	<p>1)The value of service is to have people you might not have otherwise. 2) Make length of service be limited to 2 years (draft or voluntary enlistment). 4) Economically it is not in the best interests of the taxpayers to raise service salaries when increasing the service numbers, instead offer other benefits to make service more attractive.</p> <p>5) The selective service in my opinion is a necessary part of the National Defense of our country. I don't believe women should be forced into the Selective Service, but would be allowed to volunteer for Selective Service. 6) All males 18-30 years should participate in the Selective Service, feasible yes, mandatory absolutely and the value is obvious.</p>
10/25/18	<p>I served for 23 years and retired as a Master Sergeant in the USAF. As it stands right now, the military commercials are made in such a way where they are designed to only attract the middle class and poverty. So again, just like with every previous generation; and with every previous war/conflict/operations (there has not been a war since WW2); it seems the affluent still get a free ride and the task of defending the country still falls the the middle class and poor. If the affluent do decide to join the military, they become officers for which many had their parents pay for their college degrees. That is why one of the main recruitment tools for the enlisted is the college attraction. Recruitment commercials need to be designed so that it is not just the middle class and poor these commercials are made attractable for. The defense of this country should not always have to fall upon the shoulders of the underprivileged. Now those of you who are reading this may not agree, but the history of military service, and especially those who served in time of war proves me right. Look at the wars/conflicts/operations going back to the civil war; Every one of them had some program where the affluent were excused from serving or had deferments. During Vietnam, the college deferment was the ultimate slap in the face to the enlisted who were drafted. You may not think this still happens today, but it does in the way the military commercials are designed to attract.</p>

10/25/18	<p>I served for 23 years and retired as a Master Sergeant in the USAF. As it stands right now, the military commercials are made in such a way where they are designed to only attract the middle class and poverty. So again, just like with every previous generation; and with every previous war/conflict/operations (there has not been a war since WW2); it seems the affluent still get a free ride and the task of defending the country still falls the the middle class and poor. If the affluent do decide to join the military, they become officers because many have Bachelors degrees. That is why one of the main recruitment tools for the enlisted is the college attraction. Recruitment commercials need to be designed so that it is not just the middle class and poor these commercials are made attractable too. The moral majority of the defense of this country should not always have to fall upon the shoulders of the underprivileged. Now those of you who are reading this may not agree, but the history of this nations military service, and especially for those who served in time of war proves me right. Look at the wars/conflicts/operations going back to the civil war; Every one of them had some program where the affluent were excused from serving or had deferments. During Vietnam, the college deferment was the ultimate slap in the face to the enlisted who were drafted. You may not think this still happens today, but it does in the way the military commercials are designed to attract. By the way, I received my Associates and Bachelors degree from my Active Duty and VA benefits.</p> <p>Shawn W. Wilbur President Blinded Veterans Association Nebraska Regional Group</p>
10/25/18	<p>I served for 23 years and retired as a Master Sergeant in the USAF. As it stands right now, the military commercials are made in such a way where they are designed to only attract the middle class and poverty. So again, just like with every previous generation; and with every previous war/conflict/operations (there has not been a war since WW2); it seems the affluent still get a free ride and the task of defending the country still falls the middle class and poor. If the affluent do decide to join the military, they become officers because many have Bachelor’s degrees. That is why one of the main recruitment tools for the enlisted is the college attraction. Recruitment commercials need to be designed so that it is not just the middle class and poor these commercials are made attractable too. The moral majority of the defense of this country should not always have to fall upon the shoulders of the underprivileged. Now those of you who are reading this may not agree, but the history of this nation’s military service and especially for those who served in time of war proves me right. Look at the wars/conflicts/operations going back to the civil war; every one of them had some program where the affluent were excused from serving or had deferments. During Vietnam, the college deferment was the ultimate slap in the face to the enlisted that were drafted. You may not think this still happens today, but it does in the way the military commercials are designed to attract. By the way, I received my Associates and Bachelor’s degree from my Active Duty and VA benefits.</p> <p>Shawn W. Wilbur President Blinded Veterans Association Nebraska Regional Group</p>

10/28/18	<p>Service to the nation is so important in our democracy. Most assume that the military is the only way to "serve" but jobs in government or as an educator also serve the public good. We have thousands of highly qualified and very talented young people graduating from top colleges and universities every year who could make a valuable contribution to our nation before transitioning to other careers. In the post-Vietnam era many universities divested themselves of ROTC programs based on service inequalities based on gender or sexual orientation. Since recent changes in military policy have eliminated those restrictions it would benefit the nation to revisit ROTC on the campuses of top universities. Also, there are significant benefits available to those willing to serve in the military but most university students are either not aware of or not interested in learning about these benefits. Between university scholarships, graduate school opportunities, or retirement benefits, even those from strong economic backgrounds can benefit from military service, and many of those individuals will end up in key business or government leadership positions where previous service in our military (or other federal service) would ensure informed decision making on issues of national policy. I recommend an organized outreach program (other than by traditional military recruiters) focused on students at elite schools on the benefits (both to the individual and to our nation) of their service. One final idea is that we should consider ways to incentivize public service. There are drastic ideas including linking service to voting rights or less drastic ideas such as student loan forgiveness but an organized, deliberate approach is needed by our government to consider a wide range of ideas and recommend some for implementation. I am encouraged by this Commission and would like to volunteer my support in any way that I can. I am a retired Army Colonel with 26 years of service and was the beneficiary of an ROTC scholarship, funded graduate school and other wonderful opportunities during my time in uniform. Please let me know if I can be of service to the Commission.</p>
10/29/18	<p>As you review the military service process please keep in mind those who are conscientious objectors to participating in the military, especially those whose religious beliefs are opposed to participating in war. There should at least be options to serve which do not violate their religious beliefs.</p>
10/30/18	<p>Yes please reinstate the draft I believe it will lessen the crime and clean the streets .they want to shoot let them shoot the enemy's rather than take innocent lives. Plus instill values ,YES RENSTAT draft</p>
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10/30/18	<p>Well, I for one am proud to live in a country that treats all of its citizens with respect! I truly admire how we as a country look out for each other with national free or highly subsidized access to health care for all regardless of income or pre-existing conditions, oh wait, unlike every other first world country we do not have that... Hmm, oh I know! I am greatly honored to live in a country that sees just how important access to higher education is for their citizens so they can have a chance to bring a positive change to their country and better themselves in the process instead of incurring massive amounts of crippling debt! Oh wait, I messed up again... Third times the charm, I tell everyone from abroad when I meet them how much I love living in the United States because we are so open to other cultures and foreign individuals and do not judge them based on the actions of a few bad individuals throughout the world or the color of their skin and how proud I am of our "president" who most certainly does not believe that White Supremacists and other radical right-winged militants are "Good People." Oh boy, well maybe that's why I have always been met with laughter :-/ ... Oh wait, I have got it! I love how we definitely did not target "hippies" and "minorities" in the War on Drugs, which we definitely did not spend an astronomical amount of money to vilify certain individuals who were speaking out against Vietnam and in the process, instead of confronting your issue with free speech, miss-schedule drugs that have shown to provide a significant improvement in easing the suffering of the terminally ill and the plights which have befallen the chronic suffers from your country. Instead, we as a nation would rather rely on the pharmaceutical companies who only wish to see their profit margins increase and their shareholders happy instead of the nightmare they have unleashed causing the opioid crisis that I am now living in the heart of! These people started off with a typical injury, they were prescribed opioids for pain relief and when those pills dried up but their pain did not, they turned to what they could get their hands on, as they were already hooked on opioids by this point! Perhaps maybe it is time to start reclassifying these certain drugs which have for so long been demonized for nothing but political gain and profit margin increases all at the expense of your citizen's lives.</p> <p>Oh and FUCK the draft!! I would not fight for this country I would rather die than stand for its injustices!</p>
10/31/18	<p>You must allow people to register as "Conscientious objectors."</p> <p>Yours sincerely, Patrick Henry ██████████ Walla Walla, WA ██████████</p>
11/9/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please offer opportunities for those who register to register as conscientious objectors. - If national service ever becomes a reality, please include opportunities to serve for those who are conscientious objectors.

11/12/18	<p>End selective service. End the draft.</p> <p>Stop going to war and/or occupying other countries for their resources or because they choose to back their money with gold.</p> <p>Stop being willing to turn against your own people and follow orders that blatantly go against human rights.</p> <p>Take care of your former service people... Watching veterans die in the street doesn't inspire anyone to serve.</p> <p>Suicides, homelessness, illness and disease from exposure to chemicals and/or having vaccines tested on them. Hmmm... Why does no one rush to join?</p>
11/15/18	<p>JROTC teaches leadership skills , ethics ,integrity and helps to grow patriotism and appreciation for our Nation and it's freedoms. Appreciation and patriotism inspires young people to serve , both in civilian and military realms.</p> <p>ROTC at the university level , builds up our future leaders through higher education and broadens their opportunity to serve in both military and civilian roles for their Nation and Community .</p> <p>JROTC and ROTC programs would help bridge the gap and #inspire2serve</p>

11/18/18	<p>As ALL military MOS are now RIGHTLY performance based & gender-neutral:</p> <p>Inescapably, during times of great national struggle, there will be those who will stand for the many, and those who will try to hide among the crowd, and it's often then, when nations decide to choose between the assumption that all will heed the call of veritable patriotism, or instead, serviceable practicality, which puts in place a selective service system that contains all of the accountabilities and benefits of a society based on law. Let it be known that the current gender-bias in Selective Service System registration, vis-à-vis United States (U.S.) Armed Forces rightful universal gender-neutral and competency-based (entirely based on personal initiative and ability) Mission Occupational Specialties (MOS) eligibility, will ensure that there's no accountability in the inevitable event that some individuals choose to hide from service in those rare instances when the nation calls upon its People to help preserve the union. While evading military service responsibility, perceivably during the nation's greatest time of need, those individuals would continue to remain eligible to indulge in federal, state and local governmental employment, benefits, and pensions, which in most instances, due to statutory obligation, would be irrevocable.</p> <p>The deliberate gender-debasing component of the Selective Service System's conscription gender-bias^{1,2}, vis-à-vis the U.S. Armed Forces rightful universal gender-neutral and competency-based (entirely based on personal initiative and ability) MOS eligibility, poses obvious constitutionality questions, to wit: they violate Section 1 of Amendment XIV of the Constitution of the United States³, whereby any — male — person must have equal protection — and obligation — under the law (of conscription). The body politic of the United States of America often animatedly trumpets the sentiment “united we stand, divided we fall”, yet it still places second-class competency on 50.8% of its citizenry: is females. This perfunctory and dated concept of females not being equal in every way to males must end, therefore, let it rest in the able — unisex — hands of the U. S. Congress of the United States and the President of United States to resoundingly extend to females, Selective Service System registration requirements that that guarantees equal rights and obligations to all, and further provides for the promise that all will have an opportunity to ably stand and be heard.</p> <p>References:</p> <p>① The U. S. House of Representatives “50 U.S.C 49: Military Selective Service”: http://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title50/chapter49&edition=prelim</p> <p>② The U.S. Selective Service System Agency “Military Selective Service Act (MSSA)”: https://www.sss.gov/About/Agency-Mission/Military-Selective-Service-Act</p> <p>③ The U.S. National Archives “Amendment XIV of the Constitution of the United States”: https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/amendments-11-27</p>
11/18/18	<p>My year of service with AmeriCorps was one of the most life changing I've ever had, and set me on a life time of supporting my fellow Americans through public service. While defending our nation militaristically is not in line with my personal values of non-violence, service was something I was compelled to do, but it was not without both financial and personal cost that I believe the US can better acknowledge. At 20 years old, I found myself standing between the youth in my care and an MS13 roll by, I held the hand of rape victims, I witnessed a stabbing. And for this, I went into major debt and more than 1/2 the nights could not afford to eat. I lived in an unsafe location and had little support to navigate this as a young woman. I was fortunate that I had the resources to survive and then thrive through this program, but many do not. I find our national priorities wildly skewed in how we invest in those willing to serve. I believe those that serve in the Military and PeaceCorps are more than worthy of the investment we make in them.</p>

But I also believe those that want to serve OUR American people here at home are ALSO worthy of similar investment. No one should go hungry in America because they want to help. We invested in our country. Our country should invest in us.

11/20/18	<p>Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it?</p> <p>Yes service to this country has value. There are many ways it can be done. It doesn't all have to be in war or causing building damage or injuring killing people in other countries though. I think the value of service could be anything that benefits our country, from helping vulnerable populations to succeed, to rebuilding our aging infrastructure, to supporting our children in school, to helping our seniors, to working to get the poor out of poverty.</p> <p>How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve?</p> <p>Provide many different service opportunities. Allow the person to choose the type of work they want to do and see where a persons talents can be best used in all the public projects we have around the country. Military service should be one option, but not the only option. Offer incentives like a substantial college grant in exchange for a couple of years of service after high school.</p> <p>What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service?</p> <p>People having to fight unpopular or unnecessary wars. The Iraq war was one example of this. Service opportunities should benefit the public good and war should always be a last resort policy.</p> <p>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?</p> <p>Promote a variety of careers, let people choose what they want to do. Offer good pay. Adopt policies that war is last resort and only go into it when it is an emergency and the public. Promote service for college or reduction of college debt,</p> <p>Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? NO. The selective service system has not been called to draft people in over 45 years. I think it is a waste of money. In any case if a draft gets called, the sons and daughters of the richest and our politicians should be drafted first to set an example to serve.</p> <p>Are modifications to the selective service system needed?</p> <p>I would remove lifetime penalties for failing to register, maybe reinstate the federal benefits after age 26 especially in times of non-war or volunteer army. There are some who cannot get financial aid because they didn't know to register because of this policy. Also it should not be gender based. Lastly, one study showed that people often don't update their address with the SSS after moving.</p> <p>Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible?</p>
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I don't think it is necessary to be mandatory. But should be encouraged (with the choice of occupation and not all service needs to be military or combat roles). We also need to include those with disabilities being able to serve in a role in which they are capable of doing the job.

11/22/18	<p>I believe that the US would benefit from reinstatement of the military draft because compulsory military services spreads to heburden of the nation's defense across all economic classes and works to diminish the 'disconnect' between the civilian population and those in the armed forces.</p> <p>The greater the understanding across the population of how the armed services work and how important national defense is, the more restrained Congress will be to use the military for intervention around the world.</p> <p>There is also the benefit to our young people in having the maturing effect of participating in something greater than self. It shows young people what physical and mental stress they can endure, and it serves to expose them to people from different geographic areas of the country, and different cultural and economic backgrounds.</p>
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11/26/18	<p>Registering for the military should be discontinued.</p>
11/29/18	<p>Please don't do this. People should only serve if they would like. I appreciate this country and the military immensely, but the service would not be for me.</p>

11/29/18	I don't think that adding a draft and requiring people to serve, would make our military stronger. Just because we have more people, doesn't make the military stronger. I think the government needs to pursue technological advancements for the military, and to purchase the best equipment possible. For recruitment purposes, I believe that these folks deserve pay raises. I strongly support and admire all people who serve and who have served, but it would not be for me. And I don't want to be forced to serve if I don't want to. Respectfully, P.F.
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11/29/18	I think a push for National service on all fronts is imperative to strengthen our democracy now and for the future, to create common ground among our people and increase national pride/patriotism and protect our freedoms. I think that there are ways to incentivize people without it being mandatory; we can target community and student leaders and train them to promote the idea of service and I would strongly consider making the service path available directly after high school to all young people. Local organizations can host service program speakers, op-eds can be placed. Corporate leaders can be encouraged to partner and promote public service as part of their CSR focus. Thank you for working on this program! -Elizabeth R, Seattle, WA
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11/30/18	AAAA内容AAAAAA
12/1/18	All persons should be required to complete a form of public service. In addition, would should be added to the Selective Services as they are as capable as men in all military MOS.

12/3/18	<p>Yes please reinstate the draft I believe it will lessen the crime and clean the streets .they wantto shoot let them shoot the enemy's rather than innocent lives. Plus instil valuesYESRENSAT draft please reinstate the draft I believe it will lessen the crime and clean the streets .they want</p>
12/3/18	<p>As input to the Commission I have two comments:First, the purpose of having a Draft -- to conscript forces in a war situation -- seems to beobsolete and thus is no longer necessary. One reason for suggesting this is that the military is moving away from situations where thereis a need for uneducated bodies, toward the need for well-trained knowledgeable resourceswho can operate the more complicated systems of today. In addition, because of theseproductivity enhancements, it also requires fewer people to operate these systems.Another reason for suggesting this is that after 9/11/2001, it became obvious that when there isan event that plays on the hearts of those who wish to serve their country in order to defeat anenemy, there are more than enough volunteers to support these efforts without also using aDraft to increase the number.The second input is that the current Draft registration process, unlike those of the Vietnamwar, and World War II, does not have a provision for the opportunity to allow conscientiousobjectors to fulfill their duty to their country in a way that does not involve military service. This is a grievous hole that has been left out of the current registration process. If theCommission comes to the conclusion that registration should continue, it should recommendstrongly that an option to register as a conscientious objector be made possible. This willserve to provide the military with lists of people who have no objection to military service, aswell as a list of those who wish to serve their country, but do so outside of the militarystructure. By allowing this conscientious objection category, the government will have a poolof people to choose from who are ready, willing, and able to provide services to their countrywithout betraying their conscience. It is in the best interest of the country to be able toproactively identify these individuals so that they may be utilized efficiently rather thanhaving to spend time and money to identify them after-the-fact.Thank you for your time,Thomas Lapp</p>
12/3/18	<p>Dear Commission members, as a concerned citizen and decorated Vietnam veteran (1970-71) with AF commendation/honorable discharge (██████████) I must submit my comments to you. I, and many dozens in my family and social network oppose the selective service system and especially the DRAFT Registration for the following reasons: 1) it weakens democracy because it is undemocratic. 2) It does not allow concerned citizens to register as conscientious objectors. 3) what about the question of women with their present role in combat? 4) It is not necessary with an all-volunteer military. 5) the punishments for non-registration are RACIST and gov'nt "selective" " criminal" prosecutions are unconstitutional. 6) It violates religious freedom and separation of church and state by not recognizing C. Objectors. 7) It is a bad example to other nation-states and a good example to dictatorships that use conscription. 8) again, it is racist and anti-poor people with a possible motive of taking away VOTING rights, driving rights as a punishment. I will oppose these unjust rules, dogma and activities with all that I hold dear in our democracy and with all I shared while in Vietnam -- please have faith and do away with this failed system -- and it is fitting that I write this at 100 years after W.W. I, another most determined insane war that my father was forced into and as he told me "war just creates the conditions for more war" -- Ssgt Tom Gilmore USAF 1968-1972</p>

12/3/18	<p>Dear Commissioners: Thank you for the opportunity to express my beliefs regarding military and other public service. I am a Mennonite from birth but write as a convinced adult about these things. I believe war is wrong and violence will not bring peace and security -- maybe short-term -- in personal, national, or international arenas. I believe in the peaceful PREVENTION of violence and war. I want to be a part of sharing developments in health, sustainable environment, non-discrimination among all people -- regardless of race, gender religion, ethnicity or national origin. No parties can threaten each other for security and peace to be achieved. Some concerns with regard to Selective Service (draft) And US Military Service: 1) The law regarding all males of draft-age to register should be eliminated. 2) The proposal that females of draft age should register should be eliminated. 3) Public services and social service benefits should not be based upon state, local, or national requirements of mandatory registration for military service. 4) There should be a clear and easy process for a person whose moral conscience requires them to object to participation in the military, to indicate the same if the Selective Service registration and draft laws are not eliminated. I strongly support major reductions in military funding and aggressive international policies. This could allow for sharing peaceful technologies, promoting international programs of equality in education and economic opportunities and assets must be directed toward domestic needs/programs, which are many. Regarding Non-Military Public Service: Humans thrive on serving others and the environment. This should be encouraged by programs and funding. All could be done non-violently, with respect for life and peace. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments and concerns to the Commission. Sincerely, Lois Kennel</p>
12/3/18	<p>Dear Sirs/ Ma'ams: I write in support of major changes of the current Selective Service registration aims and procedures. Chief among my requests is for the Selective Service registration, whatever form it may take in the future, to make provision for Conscientious Objector status at the time of registration. As a career military officer, former senior military fellow at National Defence University (Fort McNair) with teaching opportunities at the senior service college, and Lutheran clergyman and military and military chaplain, I believe registration for military or other public service is strengthened by including provisions to identify as a Conscientious Objector (CO). The criterion for CO status should be at least as clear as specified by military regulations today. Such an option opens a pathway for alternative public service by COs. Secondly, given continuing erosion of political and civil discourse along with untapped opportunities to foster stronger citizenship and service, I hope one outcome of the work of the Commission is proposing unified program for mandatory, national public service for men and women as a pathway toward adulthood in our Nation. Experts from Dr. Isabel Sawhill (Brookings) to retired (four-star) General Stanley McChrystal have laid out the benefits of national service. I hope the Commission can provide an achievable way forward for our country to benefit from the direct service and secondary benefits for deepening citizenship which a period of public service can provide. Sincerely yours, Franklin Eric Wester</p>
12/3/18	<p>Dear Friends, Please end the requirement for registration under the Selective Service System. It fills no useful purpose and longer, and it causes many young men a great deal of pain unnecessarily. Some young men find it offensive and against their conscience. For them not registering also causes serious losses, of access to government service or job training programs or student financial aid. And all for no good reason whatsoever. We are not using the draft any longer for any useful purpose. It is an anachronism. It is also a huge waste of tax dollars. Get rid of it please. Thank you. Yours truly, Cushman D. Anthony</p>
12/3/18	<p>Dear Sirs: I want to give my opinion on military, national and public service. 1. I believe military and public service should be voluntary and not mandatory, and it should exclude women. 2. If the Selective Service System is retained, conscientious objectors to war should be allowed to participate in "alternative service" which is not administered by, nor connected to any military service. This was the policy for conscientious objectors during World War II and the Vietnam War. For example, During World War II my husband (John Yoder, Jr) did alternative service by working in a mental hospital in</p>

	<p>Baltimore, MD, where he was the lone attendant over 81 violent patients for a 12 hour shift. He was working at a needy place, but not in the military where people are killed. Thank you for allowing me to give my opinion. Sincerely Grace Yoder</p>
12/3/18	<p>Hi Amy, You may recall that I spoke to you back in 2016 when you were with NCAS, about a concert I was planning, and I remember you telling me that you were a singer in college (I hope you are still a singer!). That concert was actually postponed because the conductor became seriously ill. However, the concert is back the year, bigger and better than ever, and I am writing just to let you know it is happening. Among other things it attempts to tackle an issue I believe you are interested in -- helping non-veterans understand what a veteran's experience is really like. I am a veteran (Vietnam) and people thank me for my service, but most don't really understand what my service was. We all try to change the world in our own ways. In my Army service I was a musician, so that is why I am producing this concert (which will be performed in three different venues in November). As you well know, music communicates on an emotional level, different from reading a book or article. I believe the concert will help a non-veteran audience feel more viscerally what veterans experience, and also prompt them to contemplate war itself as a dispute-resolution mechanism. I have attached a backgrounder that was prepared for a television interview relating to one of the performances, which explains the concept and execution more fully. These are the three performances: CHICAGO: St. James Cathedral, 65 E. Huron St., Chicago, Illinois, Saturday November 10 at 7:30 p.m. www.warandthehumanheart.org ; UTAH: Daines Concert Hall, Utah State University, Logan, Utah, Saturday November 3 at 7:30 p.m. http://americanfestivalchorus.org/performance/2018/war-and-human-heart ; VALPARAISO: Chapel of the Resurrection, Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana, Sunday November 11 at 5 p.m. www.valpo.edu/music/whh ; you are of course invited to attend any of the performances. If you have any ideas on ways to inform individuals who may be interested about these performances, your ideas are welcome. Thank you, Sincerely, Jeffery W. Gettleman</p>
12/3/18	<p>To Whom It May Concern, Since this commission has considered various proposals for national, mandatory service, has it considered that mandatory service equals involuntary servitude? Has this concern been appropriately addressed? It seems to me that a mandatory service requirement is in direct violation of the U.S. Constitution; specifically, the 13th Amendment. This important amendment makes involuntary servitude illegal under any U.S. jurisdiction whether at the hands of the U.S. government or in the private sphere, except as punishment for a crime. Thus, how can you legally compel US citizens to serve, and not violate the Thirteenth Amendment? Again, I believe a mandatory service requirement is clearly a violation our Constitution, and goes against the core principle of our founding, namely - individual liberty. Our government derives its authority by the consent of the people in order to serve and protect the people, not the other way around. US citizens should never be forced to serve the needs of the government. Also, Dr. Joseph Heck, Chairman of the Commission states: "The Commission was created with a broad, aspirational mandate: to develop ideas that will foster a greater ethos of military, national, and public service among Americans of all ages and, in the process, strengthen our democracy." I do not believe the federal government has the Constitutional authority to foster or compel US citizens towards a particular ethos or service-related paradigm. This concept runs contrary to human freedom. Mandatory service does not, I repeat, does not "strengthen our democracy." Rather, forced labor stems from the same mindset that produced WW II's Germany and modern-day communist dictatorships. Contrary to mandatory service, the principles of American liberty inform us that genuine service must always be voluntary. Involuntary service is nothing less than slave labor by means of a tyrannical government. How and why was this measure passed and signed into law by a Republican Congress and Republican president? I have heard nothing about this commission, from any news agency, or anyone else. I hope you reconsider what you are proposing in light of the Constitution and the</p>

	<p>purpose of the federal government: namely the protection, and maintenance of individual and corporate human liberty. Respectfully Submitted, James Boyes Coupeville, WA</p>
12/3/18	<p>As ALL military MOS are now RIGHTLY performance based & gender-neutral:</p> <p>Inescapably, during times of great national struggle, there will be those who will stand for the many, and those who will try to hide among the crowd, and it's often then, when nations decide to choose between the assumption that all will heed the call of veritable patriotism, or instead, serviceable practicality, which puts in place a selective service system that contains all of the accountabilities and benefits of a society based on law. Let it be known that the current gender-bias in Selective Service System registration, vis-à-vis United States (U.S.) Armed Forces rightful universal gender-neutral and competency-based (entirely based on personal initiative and ability) Mission Occupational Specialties (MOS) eligibility, will ensure that there's no accountability in the inevitable event that some individuals choose to hide from service in those rare instances when the nation calls upon its People to help preserve the union. While evading military service responsibility, perceivably during the nation's greatest time of need, those individuals would continue to remain eligible to indulge in federal, state and local governmental employment, benefits, and pensions, which in most instances, due to statutory obligation, would be irrevocable.</p> <p>The deliberate gender-debasing component of the Selective Service System's conscription gender-bias^{1,2}, vis-à-vis the U.S. Armed Forces rightful universal gender-neutral and competency-based (entirely based on personal initiative and ability) MOS eligibility, poses obvious constitutionality questions, to wit: they violate Section 1 of Amendment XIV of the Constitution of the United States³, whereby any — male — person must have equal protection — and obligation — under the law (of conscription). The body politic of the United States of America often animatedly trumpets the sentiment "united we stand, divided we fall", yet it still places second-class competency on 50.8% of its citizenry: is females. This perfunctory and dated concept of females not being equal in every way to males must end, therefore, let it rest in the able — unisex — hands of the U. S. Congress of the United States and the President of United States to resoundingly extend to females, Selective Service System registration requirements that that guarantees equal rights and obligations to all, and further provides for the promise that all will have an opportunity to ably stand and be heard.</p>

12/3/18	Dear Commissioners: As a long time member of the Lake Forest Friends (Quakers) Meeting in Lake Forest, Illinois, I am submitting my comments in response to the Commission's request for public input on the issue of military, national, and public service as it relates to selective service, the draft, and mandated national service. As a Quaker, I am dedicated to our Peace Testimony, which stresses the importance of actively preventing the occasion of all wars and recognizing that of God in every person, including those designated as "enemies." Accordingly, I concur with the written comments submitted to this Commission on April 8, 2018 by the Boulder, Colorado Meeting of the Society of Friends. Specifically, I support the following substantive and procedural measures with regard to the future of any Draft, Registration, Selective Service, or mandated National Service: (Commenter then copies DC-00030).
12/3/18	1) I wish to have an end of required selective service registration for men. 2) Do not require that women register. 3) Allow the choice as a conscience objector if the above does not end. 4) If a non-military service w/pay + benefits is established the pay + benefits should be equal to those of military service.
12/3/18	Sir/Ma'am, I believe service to the nation is one of the most important facets of citizenship. In his book Carnage and Culture, Victor Davis Hanson proposes that civic militarism (citizens voluntarily involved in the military) is the single most important factor in Western military dominance throughout recorded history. In the book Starship Troopers, Robert Heinlein lays out his ideal government: one in which all voting citizens are required to serve in the military. I don't think such an extreme prerequisite to enfranchisement is healthy or realistic in the US; however, I think incentivizing or requiring some sort of service to one's country is absolutely critical to get the sort of buy-in from citizens required to sustain a democratic republic. In my experience, citizens who've had to fight or endure harsh conditions for their country tend to be better informed and involved in all facets of democracy, statecraft, and foreign policy than their peers. To be clear, there are many forms of service besides military service. Other ways to serve might include volunteering for Teach for America, the Peace Corps, a non-profit, or state and local government. Incentivizing these avenues of service should be a top priority for the United States, because incentivizing service incentivizes a citizenry deeply engaged in the democratic process. Some of the main barriers to the many avenues of service are the lack of return on investment, very high selectivity, and limited positions available. First, the government might expand programs that provide a transition from service such as military service, Teach for America, and the Peace Corps to prestigious or high-paying jobs. Alternatively, we might expand government benefits as a result of such service. Second, the government might expand and aggressively advertise programs like Teach for America and others to allow a greater portion of the citizenry an opportunity to serve. The military often recruits some of the best talent in the country not by paying the highest salary but by appealing to a sense of higher duty and giving desirable post-service benefits. I think mandatory service would be valuable and feasible, but only when opened up to many avenues of service other than strictly military service. The results of compulsory service on the quality of the DoD were devastating in comparison to the quality and motivation of current military personnel: compulsory military service would be devastating to the overall value and efficacy of the military. Respectfully, Kyle McAlpin oot let them shoot the enemy's rather than innocent lives. Plus instil valuesYES
12/3/18	I believe it's time to incorporate the draft of women into the military. Other countries have done it for years and have proved that women are capable of serving in all occupations in the military. As far as them being weak, I think Kipling said it best in a poem, "The female of the species is more deadly than the male." The women I have met who have served, are all ladies of quality. Serving has not made them "hard" and they have an appreciation of what serving in the military makes them a better woman. It also gives them an awareness of what their bothers have endured and a knowledge of what they can be as an individual. Les Walden 1st Vice American Legion Marvin G. Shields Memorial, [REDACTED]

12/3/18	<p>Selective service registration for males only is discriminatory. Even when I served in the US Army Airborne Infantry from 1986-1989, 90% of military positions were open to females. Now, all positions are open to females. For this reason alone, there is no reason to have or to continue a discriminatory policy for selective service registration. In addition, based on a document received from our local school district, the current rules for selective service registration state that males can be denied federal education benefits if they do not register. This is a violation of Title IX regulations which prevent discrimination on the basis of gender for the receipt of federal education benefits. I have the document and can scan and forward it if requested. From the website http://www.finaid.org/students/selectiveservice.phtml: "Male students who fail to register with Selective Service before turning age 26 are ineligible for Federal student loan and grant programs, including Pell Grants, Federal Work Study, and Stafford Loans. (Parents who want to borrow a PLUS loan do not have to satisfy the registration requirement.) Several states have also made Selective Service registration a prerequisite for state financial aid and for matriculation at public colleges and universities. Even if you disagree with the requirement, you should register. Failure to register can have a serious negative impact on your ability to obtain a driver's license, qualify for financial aid, pursue an education, or obtain employment." From the website https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/tix_dis.html: "Title IX states that: No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." Based on these issues, selective service registration must be modified as follows to create a non-discriminatory environment: 1. Registration. Require females to register in the exact same manner as males, or b. Eliminate the requirement to register altogether. 2. Penalties for failure to register. Subject females to the same penalties as males for failing to register, or b. Remove all penalties for failure to register.</p> <p>The question of whether we actually need selective service registration at this time is a valid one. While I would not be completely opposed to eliminating selective service registration altogether, I cannot speak to the military readiness aspect of the issue. Other countries have mandatory service requirements, so I think selective service registration is a reasonable middle ground. I personally believe that at the very least, we must eliminate the severely discriminatory aspects of selective service registration and require all citizens to do their part for the country. Sincerely, John C. Pratt</p>
12/3/18	Women should volunteer to the register
12/3/18	<p>Planning for war focuses on having more war. It is time that we plan for peace. Let's think about what actions we can take to promote peace and focus on those activities.</p> <p>It's been proven : What we focus on grows. How can we better negotiate, discuss, share , trade ideas with other countries rather than fight with them.</p>

12/3/18

Dear Commissioners,

I have to say that I've gotten most of my information from Edward Hasbrouck: [Caution-https://hasbrouck.org/draft/commission.html#who](https://hasbrouck.org/draft/commission.html#who) < [Caution-https://hasbrouck.org/draft/commission.html#who](https://hasbrouck.org/draft/commission.html#who) > . Edward is a 1980s Selective Service nonregistrant who was jailed for his refusal.

The reason I'm relying on Edward is that the Commission has been parsimonious at best with public input. As I've told you before, public input in the form of comments or presentations to public hearings needs to be available to the rest of us, the American public.

Don't dance around trying to cloud the issue. Redact if you need to.

DON'T REDACT MY THREE SUBMISSIONS, PLEASE! My name & contact details are free for anyone to view.

Furthermore, "closed hearings"?!?! Say what? This is America, folks! We're paying for your Commission so give us our money's worth!

You have planned legal hearings on service for January. You need to have a representative for resistance & refusal who is up to date. I suggest Edward Hasbrouck or myself. After all, I've written the most recent book on conscription. (Which all you Commissioners have read, no doubt. If you haven't, you most assuredly don't have access to the background of service and its refusal in America.)

Let's make this happen so you can make a full-informed & transparent decision in 2020.

	<p>peace&freedom,</p> <p>CJ Hinke</p>
12/4/18	jaw jaw not war war !
12/8/18	Service is most valuable when it is voluntary and chosen. Mandatory service is another name for slavery, and its abolition should continue to be a priority.
12/14/18	I, Juniper Di'on Coleman support this Draft because I'm the 3rd generation of our relatives to serve the military from late 1800's to 19teenth century ,my Grandfather understood the most highest and Lowest obstacles of serving U.S Army. He also heard and handled the difficulties to be stationed "State to State" then Stationed in Germany during "WW2" going against "Hitler". My opinion I still believe the old fashioned way of saying is " APO" meaning "Adapt , Prevail & Overcome ". Maybe or "Possibly there could be a balance put on paper to "Draft & enlist ". Lastly stand our ground for security, freedom, peace , intrusion, terrorism , through it all I agree to all opinions & differences ! .

12/16/18	<p>I am Milton Cook of Beaumont, Riverside County, California. I am a representative of the Dunkard Brethren Church, which one of nineteen constituent groups which have formed the Conservative Anabaptist Service Program, administered by Christian Aid Ministries of Millersburg, Ohio.</p> <p>Thank you for providing this means of bringing our petition before this body.</p> <p>The Conservative Anabaptist Service Program represents Christians who believe that Jesus and writers of the New testament taught a non-resistant lifestyle. This lifestyle is to be daily lived and is not only opposed to military service, but also informs our relationships with others, including those with whom we disagree. We are to love our enemies, do good rather than harass, harm, maim and kill those who oppose us.</p> <p>We are thankful for the provisions made throughout our country's history for exemption from serving in the military forces and being able to perform some type of useful, alternative service. The current Selective Service System has provided such opportunities through the CPS service during World War II and I-W service through the Korean and Vietnam War eras until the of the active draft. Our particular focus in CASP is to be prepared to provide alternative service if the draft were to be reinstated.</p> <p>We are especially concerned about the requirement of our young women to serve, whether in military or public service. We believe that God has first call upon their lives and talents. We believe that it is His will for our young sisters to be keepers at home and to learn and practice the domestic duties that will foster family life and Christian living. We would be concerned about their housing arrangements if they were required to report to a place of public service and what jobs they might be taught and required to perform.</p> <p>We do not favor registering or drafting our young women, whether for military or public service.</p> <p>We appreciate the religious freedom that we now enjoy and wish for it to continue in the years to come.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
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12/18/18	<p>I joined the Navy in Feb. 1974 just prior to my Draft number being selected. I served 22.5 years and would do it all over again.</p> <p>Reading that the military services are having a hard time getting qualified people to join. I feel that every High School Graduate should be required to join the military for a 4 to 6 contract. Once they complete bootcamp and any further training schools that the military branch sets the requirements for active duty manning every 6 months and the Reserves.</p> <p>A high percentage of todays graduates IMHO lack any motivation to better themselves or even have any goals after High School. As a Veteran, I also feel that maybe as high as 60% of these graduates do not have any respect for our country. Our Leaders today have created such an atmosphere of hatred for our country and those that serve or served, including our LEO.</p> <p>A mandatory "Draft" for both men and women beginning with age 18 to 24 would create a better system to man our military both active and reserves.</p> <p>Israel does this and it works. Some say Israel is a small country and that America has too many HS graduates each year. But what percentage of these graduates can pass a physical?</p> <p>Having a Draft system in place will ensure a continuous flow of young people.</p> <p>Another benefit to doing a draft would be that you could lower the numbers of retirees in the military doing 20 plus years. The saving there would cut down DODs Budget for Retirees. The DOD could set a standard for the enlisted manning that only the top 40% can stay in beyond 10 years to 15 years service. The break that down to only the top 15% can stay to 20 years.</p> <p>20 years would be the maximum anyone would be able to stay in the military.</p> <p>Many Veterans might think that this is a bad idea. But we as taxpayers can not keep paying taxes yearly where 50% goes towards the Retirees.</p>
12/19/18	<p>I am retired Navy, Vietnam era, Naval Reserve Recruiter 16 years. I'm apposed to a draft, and believe that if you have to draft there is already a deeper problem with our country. Let those that are willing to fight for their and our freedom do so willingly vice a draft. I understand the draft and why it has been needed in the past, but having those serving along side you in combat that are forced to be there is not what you want to deal with when your life may depend on it.</p> <p>Motivation is paramount in a effective fighting unit. I'm not saying that draftees in the past haven't done unbelievably brave actions. I just believe that in the case of combat depending on who has your back is imperative. A two year of service to fulfill your patriotic obligation is commendable, but don't risk the lives of those that are willing to go down range with someone that doesn't understands or willing to give their best. Bottom line less body bags. Find the best, train them the best, and give them the tools and best equipment and technology to do the job that unfortunately needs to be done.</p> <p>Respectfully a surviving Veteran</p>

12/27/18	<p>I think all service does have value, but I don't think any one should be forced to serve in the military or any civilian military service. People gain skills and may make friends serving in some way but that would apply to working in a soup kitchen or toy drive as well as in the military. The U.S. does not increase the desire for Americans to serve in the military. Health reason and age can be barriers. Paying the troops more than their yearly increase and taking care of them when they come home would go a long way to motivate future and current troops. No it is not. We have had ss registration since 1980 and we still had internal and external terrorist attack the U.S. so they don't care, but it does waste our tax dollars on something a lot of us don't like. I think if the government does want SS registration then it should be voluntary to women and men and that means it can have a smaller budget and the rest of that money can go to the troops or the debt that keeps rising. It is not. Currently SS registration does not ask if someone has any medical problems, So when someone has to go before a draft board that waste both their time and the board's time.</p> <p>Braden Hampton ██████████ Dexter, MO ██████████</p>
12/29/18	<p>The best way of getting females of all races interested in serving our Armed Forces is by getting them to consider it as a career opportunity. The best way of getting them to consider it as a career opportunity is by requiring everyone regardless of race, gender or citizenship to register for the selective service.</p> <p>If our government could afford mandatory service requirements for all Americans; then why is military spending budget cuts always on the chopping block? The current number of service members in our Armed Forces is a very small portion of the of the population and yet we continue to implement a RIFT. I see no value or justification for a mandatory requirement of all Americans.</p>
12/29/18	<p>There are many benefits gained by serving our country. Simply learning about the different careers offered in military or public service could motivate young people to not only choose a career/occupation that will bring them not only satisfaction but a livable income after service. I believe every male and female should be required to do two years service to the country. This could be either military or public service. While the cost of setting up a program to accomplish this would be enormous, the pay back for the country would be greater than the cost. Improved sense of country, better work skills and interpersonal work place skills along with many other benefits to the individuals would help move the country forward.</p> <p>MSgt, USAF (Ret.) ██████████</p>
12/29/18	<p>I think all Americans (including women) should be required to server in the military (tow years) national or public service (three years). I believe it would help with some of the gang valance we have now day, it would give the young people something to do and teach them skills and respect for other and pride in country, which is lacking now days.</p> <p>Kenneth Hargis MSgt, USAF retired</p>

12/29/18	<p>I think all Americans (including women) should be required to server in the military (tow years) national or public service (three years). I believe it would help with some of the gang valance we have now day, it would give the young people something to do and teach them skills and respect for other and pride in country, which is lacking now days.</p> <p>Kenneth Hargis MSgt, USAF retired</p>
12/30/18	<p>I don't think women in the military is a bad thing .I don't think they need to be subjected to ground combat units I am for selective service for women as long as it is for non combat related jobs. Former Marine Staff Sergeant .</p>
12/30/18	<p>I am a Vietnam combat veteran and the VFW magazine is encouraging us to provide input on Women and the Draft. First, let me say I believe women are capable of nearly all jobs in our nation's military. I have no doubt that they can handle any weapon, machine, vehicle or aircraft in the inventory. That said, I believe allowing women in ground combat is a mistake for two reasons: First, they generally lack the bulk and upper body strength to pick up a wounded comrade and carry him to safety. The military is not a place for political correctness or to promote "diversity" by lowering training standards. Lowering standards will ultimately cost lives. Secondly, men and women are wired differently for combat situations. Our training taught us when your buddy goes down in a fire fight, the medic's will tend to him. You are to keep moving forward to the objective. This is difficult and seems harsh, but if several guys stop in the field of fire and gather around the wounded soldier to give aid, there's a good chance they will all die. I am not a doctor or psychiatrist, but I believe that men are wired to protect women. This is innate in men, so when a woman is wounded in a fire fight, five or six guys will forget about the objective and will all stop and huddle around her to give her aid. One grenade or RPG will take them all out. None of this is the fault of the female soldier. It is simply a function of how males are wired.</p>
12/30/18	<p>In 1976, I submitted an extended research paper about the Draft. Although it focused primarily on the huge disparities in those being selected for military service. The same concept has not changed. Most who served back in the last century came from the lower social/economic groups. Although patterns have certainly changed. However, some have not. Women today are denied the opportunity to serve in positions that would develop their leadership skill sets in combat roles. I note many have achieved four-star positions who have never experienced the chaos and extreme challenges that come with actual conflict. A review of our national leadership shows an almost complete absence of anyone with actual military experience. It shows up in many of the decisions made today with many ruthless enemies of this nation who some of our recent Presidents seem to have misjudged. Much of it seems to be the result of not involving more of our society in military service. We cannot continue to have only a small percentage of our population fight and die for over 300 million people. We require a broad spectrum of our society with military experience. When the become our Governors, Senators, Representatives, the may have a better World view and appreciation of Democracy. Although limited, my experience I only saw two countries where people could buy out of military service. The United States through college enrollment; and Vietnam by paying someone to replace them. There were also unproven incidents of political influence that kept individuals from serving in combat. Otherwise many fled to Canada, returned after the Vietnam conflict. All were pardoned by President Carter. Many now are serving in prestigious positions. Conversely, many of those very young G.I.s who did serve in Vietnam, got addicted to 100% Heroin; easily available over there, got Court Marshaled, and became drug addicts many, for the rest of their lives. One of the untold stories of Vietnam. A few may still be seen on our streets, homeless and miserable, yet they all served as very young men.</p>

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12/30/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes very much so! 2. Restart the draft for a minimum 2 year period 3. You should have to be an American citizen and pass a physical 4. Restart the draft 5. Restart the draft NOW! 6. Yes it should include every able female 7. Very valuable! It is immeasurable in that Patriotism and learning about other countries changes you! Stationed overseas even for a very brief time brings America into focus! This can not be taught in school. You must experience it! Please restart the draft to save our way of life! It is that critical!
12/30/18	<p>5. Yes. 7. Yes. Women have no place in combat. We are a civilized nation. Women can serve in many other useful capacities, but do not serve our defense in a foxhole. Bruce Schall [US Army, 1970-1976]</p>
12/30/18	<p>Include women but do not change the age bracket.</p>
12/30/18	<p>For what my opinion is worth, all able bodied citizens, Male and Female, should register with the selective service system once they reach the age of 18 years old. There are no longer any justified reasons for female citizens not to register the same as their male counterparts. I am a U.S. Army veteran that served for 25 years. Thank you!</p>

12/30/18	As a draftee during the Vietnam war I often asked myself why women of comparable age were not drafted as well. At the time there was the issue of women in combat which was unacceptable. Women can serve if drafted and do a number of jobs other than combat. By doing so it frees up the number of eligible men to serve in combat. My wife is in full agreement with this concept. Women are serving in the combat arms as it is already with little fury. By all means, women should be drafted just like men.
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12/30/18	I spent 22 years in the Army and have said this for decades: Yes, women need to register for the draft. Women have long been fighting for gender equality in the workplace and there is no better way to show that equality than to require women as well as men to register. More and more "combat" positions are becoming open to women such as Ranger, Sapper and Special Operations. If they (women) want to be true equals of men who serve then require them for the draft as well. -Chris MacMillan; SFC,USA (RET)
12/31/18	Every person, (male and female) turning 18 years old should register, (mandatory) for the draft, no exception. Each person should be drafted for three (3) years, not two, not four, three, in a military service of their choice. If they have no preference of a military service that they want to join, a military service will be selected for them. This three year service obligation would prepare the person for life, giving structure, building character, and job skills. This is before these kids go off to college and select a degree or a career path that they may not be sure of. All of the above would give this child a sense of direction, and a path way to independence. I want to ask each of you on this commission a question. "At 18 years of age, what did you know and how much did you know?" More than likely you were like myself and a bunch of young kids that I knew, you didn't know much about anything. Your mom and dad may have told you what they wanted you to do, but that was their wishes, not yours. What did you want to do? You probably had no idea. You were floundering around trying to figure out what to do. Just think back on those years. Just Food for Thought.
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1/1/19

Let me set the stage for my comments. Being 75 yrs old, I maybe dated for your younger Americans but I do know about the draft, Was drafted in March of 65. I feel at 21 yrs, I had a better understanding of life than this younger generation at that age. Had a job, car, girl friend and an apt. None of this was given to me, I earned it as I have with everything in life ever since.

Even with things were going will for me at that time, I feel the draft has had a positive inherent value in my last 54 yrs. (1) Put more structure in my every day life. (2) Gave me the Knowledge & courage to face adversities & opportunities. Knowing how & when to pick yourself up when life knocks you down. (3) Makes one self- assured when dealing with people & life, having command presence when walking in to a room. (4) Been to 8 other countries, I would have never seen. (5) By the way I re-upped a few times. (6) Got a collage degree on GI-bill, bought 2 homes on VA loans. (9) Due to military training, got a letter from McDonnell Douglas Aircraft for job, that I never applied for. (10) Military pension check each month. With GI-bill training, I also get 2 other private pension checks.

Due to military training, I learned how to look forward, plan, train & execute my travel though life.

The young generation don't see the military as having any positive any effect on their lives. The news, movies, video games and not having relatives that were in the military, they are bombard with negative information. We have to off set this negative with positive information.

The kids today don't want conformity, showing them that snappy uniform don't get it. They will have respect for the uniform when they have earned it on their last day of boot camp.

I would like to see some recruiting ads, showing young people, that have been in the military , telling about the advantages & opportunities in their lives due to military training and life.

When you go into schools on recruiting days, have one in the snappy uniform but also a guy or gal, or both, there also, in civilian clothing, make sure their good looking, teen agers still like Hot Guys & Gals. Make sure they have that command presence when they enter the room. Teen agers will notice, due to the fact they don't see it very often, even from their teachers.

Thank you for your time, in reading this.

I asked a DI about the new recruits that he was training, he was an older guy. He said they were smarter but could not pour pee out of a boot or come in out of the rain. They had no reel life skills. They were physically in poor shape & overweight than they had been in the past.

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1/1/19	<p>I do believe a selective service system at least as a contingency is necessary, and do believe that females should be included. A mandatory service requirement for all Americans is, in my opinion, at least desirable. I don't know about necessary and certainly don't know about feasible.</p> <p>Glynn Kegley, Vietnam veteran (infantry service)</p>
1/1/19	<p>I believe that requiring males to register for the selective service should continue to be mandatory and would agree with some sort of required military service as the basis for citizenship. I DO NOT support requiring women to do the same. They have the option to enter service if they so choose but many choose to start a family and value home and hearth. They should not be forced to do so because a politician has an agenda and wants to mandate egalitarianism.</p> <p>Service is of great benefit and a variety of terms and /or length of service can be considered. I think the desire to serve can be increased if the social engineering and sensitivity type training is stopped so that we can get back to an honor-based warrior culture. Men/warriors do not do well in that kind of environment and will not be attracted to it.</p>
1/1/19	<p>I always wanted to serve my country. Patiently waiting for the military to come to its senses about what medical conditions prevent a young man or woman from serving versus conditions that are allowable. I had childhood asthma and even now as an adult in my thirties I can from time to time need a spray from an inhaler to breathe better. Not to prevent an ensuing death but to simply remove discomfort. I was an ocean lifeguard and a amateur sprint triathlete. I did these things all while living with the stigma of having had childhood asthma. I was a high level swimmer who from time to time took a spray of ventolin to breathe perfectly. The military could not accept me, a well built above average athlete who scored high on an ASVAB test because as a child I had breathing difficulties that a doctor wrote down as asthma. I could not serve the country I loved because of a minor condition that I very much had control of. For years it killed me that the military would take a person with glasses but not a person with asthma (or a history of it.) Recruiters told me I couldnt be effective if I had to carry an inhaler. But a person who cant see has to carry his or her glasses right? Yes I would be told but if I lost my inhaler and had an issue I could become a burden to my unit. I would try to explain if I had an episode and no inhaler I could still move possibly for hours with increasing difficulty breathing. However a person in combat loses his or her glasses and now that person cannot see. They cannot see who to shoot at if needed. They would not know where to run in attack or retreat. A person with glasses is still allowed to serve meanwhile countless generation Xers and Millenials who were overwhelmingly misdiagnosed with a laundry list of ailments such as asthma still cannot. This is poor logic. The military is and has been missing out on high caliber people for many years now. I would like to hammer my point home with one last scenario. Myself and my brothers in arms are pinned down in a fire fight. Myself and another soldier are working together manning a machine gun. An explosion goes off nearby to the two of us kicking up dust and debris. My inhaler has been blown to bits and I begin to display difficulty breathing but meanwhile my partner has his glasses blown to smithereens. I ask this of anyone in charge of medical determinations for the military. Who is going to lay down effective suppressing fire on a determined enemy bent on over running our position? The soldier who can't see anything. Someone who could not only not see but could potentially shoot at his own troops. Or the person with perfect vision, a little tightness of the chest, and hours of accurate placement down range. The person with asthma is who you would want. Change your rules and let people serve and give them the tools they need to overcome what minor ailments they may suffer. You have already allowed this practice for other issues for countless years now Thank you for reading</p>

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1/1/19	<p>The draft and public service I believe should be mandatory. As a country we seem to have lost our way in the belief our country is the greatest place in the world to live and raise a family. Teamwork, with individualism, is a great concept. It is how we were formed as a country. Knowing how to help your person to your right or left, either in the military or your town is essential to a solid community and country. In the military, you do learn what that means! But it is available in other venues, ie: build a trail in the wilderness, help reclaim land/forest lost to a wildfire. I do not mean for a few days or weeks, maybe 3-6 months or longer, where the individual thinks it will never end and the only way to leave it, is to succeed.</p> <p>Benefits are great for our country and the individuals. Learn to do things they never would be exposed. Normal life skills, to tech skills. I was a farm person who had learned how to operate heavy equipment(bulldozers, cranes, etc.), when I was about to be drafted, 3 months after H.S. graduation, one week after my 18th birthday, they did not need that skill. I signed up in the Navy, eventually learned to weld and had a new skill. I am so glad the Navy decided I would be good at it. Did I enjoy my time in the Navy, yes and no. Who wants to be put in danger a lot? But I did learn a great skill and saw a lot of different cultures and their vision of how life is to be.</p> <p>Draft or some form of mandatory contribution to our country is something I believe in strongly. There is always a job for any person that needs to be fulfilled.</p>
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1/1/19	<p>The January 2019 issue of 'VFWMagazine' featured an article about the Commission titled, 'Offer Your Input on Women and the Draft'. My husband, a retired US Marine, and I discussed this issue and both agree the time as come to review the standard of only men signing up for Selective Service. It would seem in a society with increased sensitivity to gender discrimination, American women would want to join ranks with their male counterparts to submit to serve their nation if called, in a manner deemed safe and appropriate.</p> <p>The Commission is wise to consider the benefits of encouraging young Americans to serve and fostering a greater depth of civic engagement with emerging generations in hopes they will protect America's constitutional democracy for the ages. - Julie Mathews; Burneyville, Oklahoma, USA</p>

1/1/19	<p>On question 6: Women should also be required to sign up at age 18. Women have lobbied for equal rights in all areas except this one. Equal means equal. Change the selective service system to include women. As a woman who served for 30 years, I support this.</p>
1/1/19	<p>I served as a team member of a LRRP Team in I Core, Vietnam in 1968, upon Deros I was re assigned to the 3rd then the 7th SFGA, in fort Bragg, NC. I believe the Training and experience i received shaped the rest of my life for success.</p> <p>All high school graduates should be required to serve their country for a minimum of 2years active duty. This service shall help them develop specific skills and knowledge to allow a more advanced education for their potential choice of carrier.</p> <p>Women should be considered for the induction into the military, they then could be Tested and vetted to accommodate various positions. The service of Women in combat should be accommodated on a voluntary basis, their training and assignment should be accomplished by Women Cadre and assignment to a women only combat unit. Because of the significant difference of physical and psychological requirements the training can be customized to accommodate their useful attributes.</p> <p>Woman have performed successfully in combat for thousands of years and if organized and trained to accommodate their natural intelligence and skill they can be an asset to our combative forces.</p>
1/1/19	<p>We have gotten so far off track since the draft ended shortly after the Vietnam War. There were many disparities with that draft system, such as people being able to "pay" their way out of the draft, to people like me who were drafted right out of college. There are so few in our government who actually served in the military that bad decisions about our defense are being made.</p> <p>What I propose is a universal (and I mean UNIVERSAL) draft that would include all American citizens, male, female and handicapped. Yes, handicapped, because if that person can sit and type, there will be work for him or her. Every citizen would enter a two-pronged draft system; one avenue would be to serve in the military, while the other would be something like the Civilian Conservation Corps - there is work out there most people do not want to do, but it's necessary work to the country and we hire non-citizens currently to do some of these. All citizens would be subject to serve our great country as soon as they complete high school, no exceptions. Those who chose to be "professional high school students," will find they have no more than 5 years to complete high school, and then they will be drafted.</p> <p>Several things about this draft proposal are beneficial: one, these young Americans will learn there is something bigger than them, as well as learning responsibilities and that there are consequences for their actions. Two, we will remove these folks from doting parents who think they need to give their children everything they want, and three, the country will benefit from all citizens having served their country for at least two years. They will be better prepared to put this country back on track and be productive citizens.</p> <p>This proposal would be fairer to all citizens and follows what some countries already do. Give our citizens a stake in our security and our productivity.</p>

1/1/19	<p>1. YES, TO SERVICE</p> <p>2. TREAT EQUAL & THEY RISE OFF OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS</p> <p>3. NONE, THERE ARE RESTRICTRICTS TO THE MILITARY FOR A REASON</p> <p>4. DO WHAT THEY HAVE ALWAYS DONE FOR MANY YEARS, DROP THEIR STANDARDS. WE HAVE ALL SEEN IT. IF THEY WANT #'S, THEY HAVE TO SUFFER QUALITY. HOWEVER, FOR EXAMPLE, BAND MEMBERS, SCIENTISTS, & LINGUISTS. THE U.S. MILITARY CAN FIND SELECT FEW, BUT NOT ENOUGH INDIVIDUALS TO SERVE, SO THEY USE RESERVIST, CONTRACTORS, APPOINT PEOPLE W/ DIFFERENT STANDARDS, & FOREIGN MILITARY.</p> <p>5. YES, A DRAFT IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY</p> <p>6.-7. YES, I HAVE 2 SONS, 1 DAUGHTER & 4 STEP CHILDREN, EVERYONE WANTS TO BE TREATED FAIRLY. EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE REGISTERED & CATALOGED. IF THEY ARE NOT DOING IT AT BIRTH, OR IF PEOPLE ARE SNEAKING INTO OUR COUNTRY, THIS IS A 2ND CHANCE TO REGISTER/KEEP TRACK OF ALL AMERICAN FOR THE SECURITY OF OUR COUNTRY. AS A RETIRED MARINE & THE FORMER HEAD ANTI-TERRORISM INSTRUCTOR FOR HLS, THIS MAY SEEM SAD, BUT OUR HOSPITALS, LAW ENFORECMENTS, BANKS, CREDIT CARDS, SOCIAL MEDIA, STORES, SCHOOLS & BAD GUYS ARE ALL COLLECTING DATA ON US. EVERYTHING IS DATA & SHOULD BE ANALYZED. EVERY PERSON CAN PLAY A PART. THE RUSSIANS ARE ALREADY DOING THIS AS A COUNTRY & HAVE MASS 2-3 WEEK NATIONAL EXERCISES. WE DO NOT HAVE TO TAKE IT TO THAT LEVEL, BUT SHOULD EDUACTE OUR CHILDREN, GIVE THEM CHOICES & MAKE THEM AWARE OF THREATS. SERVICE AT THE NATIONAL, STATE, & EVEN THE LOCAL LEVEL ALLOWS THEM TO BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW THE WORLD AROUND THEM & HOW OUR WORLD WORKS.</p>
1/1/19	<p>I am happy to hear women may be included in a possible draft. When I talked about joining it was a bad thing to do in some men's thoughts. I backed down and am sorry I missed my chance. There are too many new directions open when a new life style is presented into some one's life.</p>
1/2/19	<p>1. Yes. Too many Americans, particularly young Americans have inherited an attitude of "what can I get" as opposed to what can I give to my country and my fellow Americans. 3. No barriers. Just a societal ideal that "Why would you want to do that". 4. Competitive pay and retirement benefits to civilian positions with similar prerequisites. 5. Yes. Mandatory service might also be a great thing for most young Americans but I don't think we need it to have qualified warriors. 6. Yes, females should register. Equal rights, equal pay, equal responsibilities. 7. I think so on the last 2 points, not sure if needed currently, but that could always change.</p> <p>Richard Osman, MD Capt. USN-ret</p>
1/2/19	<p>I am an 23 year veteran with 18 years of military recruiting experience. I strongly recommend that women be allowed to register for our selective service program. However, I would not make it mandatory. If we ever reenact the draft, I hope to God we do not need our women to fight our battles. Not because women do not make good soldiers, sailors or airmen. Some of my best recruits were women. But I am still of the belief that men have a moral responsibility to be the protectors and women should never be required to fight and defend when we gave capable men in our country to fulfill that position. If a woman volunteers for the draft then by all means let them serve. But I am against forcing a woman into that position.</p>
1/2/19	<p>As long as registration is required for the Selective Service System for 18 year old males it should also be required of 18 year old females. It is discrimination to only require men to register. We are all American citizens and as such any requirement should be universal as it pertains to gender. It is proven that women are able to perform as well as men.</p>

1/2/19	<p>1. Sense of participation in the Country, and receiving leadership and education opportunities</p> <p>2. Better and more advertising (including non-traditional means)</p> <p>3. Lack of communication</p> <p>4. qv#2, emphasizing educational, training, and experience benefits---which transfer to civilian, and government service, resulting in greater income and benefits, and opportunities</p> <p>5. yes</p> <p>6. yes. It should include women. Women already serve in the military, but, inclusion in Selective Service would continue to level the playing field of opportunity</p> <p>7. Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes. It is operative in other countries, without any apparent detriment, but, with apparent benefit to all.</p>
1/2/19	<p>With regards to military service, we must have one standard, which is blind to gender or race. If we are to integrate the sexes, and gender or race are treated differently, then those who benefit from the lower standards will be resented and not respected. This is the current situation. All women suffer a lack of respect due to the lower standards.</p> <p>Another issue of concern is that different administrations have different rules. In the last administration, our soldiers hands were "tied" and the ROE was unworkable. We even have military personnel who are being prosecuted for killing the enemy. While circumstances can sometimes be concerning, this is not how we won WWII. Pilots should not be afraid to drop a bomb (due to collateral damage). Our soldiers should have SOME protection against prosecution for exercising their judgement in eliminating threats. Our enemy laughs at our softness and our Shangri-La detention facilities. I served during Desert Storm and am very patriotic. However, I will not have MY children serve in a position that puts them at legal risk every time they pull the trigger.</p> <p>That being said, I would like to see mandatory summer service for all in high school. This would include basic discipline, marksmanship, and classes which enlighten young people on the important role of this country in world history. Maybe this would encourage more to serve. Selective Service registration should remain in the event of national emergency. Those who have attended a mandatory summer service would be partially prepared and quicker to put into service.</p> <p>Maj. Vince Walker, USMC (Retired)</p>
1/2/19	<p>I WAS DRAFTED IN 1965 AND SERVED IN VIET NAN IN THE INFANTRY. ALSO SERVED IN ARMY RESERVE, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD FOR 28 YEARS AND NOW RETIRED AS MSGT. I DO HONOR GUARDS AND VETERANS COLOR GUARD NOW. I AM STILL SERVING MY COUNTRY NOW !</p> <p>EVERY PERSON SHOULD SERVE THE USA EITHER IN SERVICE OR PEACE CORE AS IN THE PAST. THEY MUST REGISTER FOR THE MILITARY DRAFT !</p>

1/3/19	<p>I believe that women should register with selective service because of EQUALITY of the genders. For decades women have been asking for EQUALITY in the workplace, in pay matters, treatment, and in general equal rights. Women have achieved this with great struggle on their behalf, and I salute them for their struggle and their success. The most recent being allowed to be placed in combat roles. They had to try even harder than their male counterparts because of their gender. So to make it complete have them register for selective service.</p> <p>Henry Sherrill AM1 (AW) USN RET.</p>
1/3/19	<p>Let me start with #6 first. Modifications should add that females be included as potential draftees.</p> <p>#7. Every person, male and female, should be required to spend at least two years in the military.</p> <p>#1. The military is an environment which assists young men and women to mature, be responsible for self and, in general, grow up. Learning a trade and expanding on additional schooling are a plus.</p> <p>#3. Barriers are created in our educational systems throughout the country. Our systems are too liberal to instill any sense of "duty" to country to any student.</p>
1/3/19	<p>1. Yes service has value in that it makes you appreciate our country and it's history. 2. It doesn't and that is the problem. 3. None. Make it mandatory for 2 years. 4. Make mandatory for everyone who is physically and mentally able to serve. 5. Yes 6. I do not know. 7. Yes, Yes, and Yes.</p>
1/3/19	<p>As I former Vietnam era service member I offer the following comments:</p> <p>1. For myself, the time, two years, that I spent in the Marine Corps proved to be very valuable. I had been an indifferent student in both high school and then three years of college. After my service, including a tour in Vietnam, I became truly focused on school. So, for me it was gaining maturity.</p> <p>2. This really is the heart of the problem. With the current robust economy, there is little incentive for young people to view the military as a potential path out of poverty or less desirable family/living arrangements. The only two incentives I can see is the educational assistance benefits through the G.I. bill and/or acquiring technical skills that can be transferred to the civilian sector.</p> <p>A nice recession or another terrorist attack on the homeland would be a short term benefit - but hard to arrange.</p> <p>3. As mentioned in # 2 above, the current economy is in itself a barrier to young people joining the military. My own son is an example. He is a college junior, majoring in computer science. While he knows of my past military experience, he has no interest in joining, himself. He just wants to graduate and get a good paying job.</p> <p>4. This issue begs the question as to what force structure are we planning for? If we have that clearly defined, then we can assess the critical skills needed and the gaps that need to be addressed and the potential costs of filling those gaps. Speaking from some experience, while there are technological enhancements to an infantryman's basic equipment, it still comes down to basic physical conditioning and pulling a trigger.</p> <p>5-6-7 I think these last three questions can be combined. Back in 1966, I would not have joined the Marine Corps until I received the letter that told me that "My friends and neighbors...." wanted me for cannon fodder. I think that unless our young men and women are required to perform some type of service, military or civilian, there is very little incentive for them to volunteer. I do not believe that we have the political will to implement some form of universal service, such as the State of Israel has in place. Unless and until that comes into being, I would have to say that it is necessary to retain the draft, kind of like a sword of Damocles, if you will. The last issue that was not addressed is the high percentage of volunteers that increasingly do not have the physical condition necessary to meet the current standards. That needs to be incorporated into any revisions of the current system. If not, we</p>

	will have a smaller and smaller professional military with the potential of standards that are far less than desirable. Finally, "YES" I see no reason to exclude women from registering for the draft. I have worked with women in the United States Postal Service as well as local law enforcement. I do not see any reason to exclude a large segment of the potential talent pool merely because of their gender.
1/3/19	It is the hallmark of a country in decline that it would stoop so low as to force young women to register for the draft. It is bad enough that combat roles have been opened to them and now you want to take them on a forced call-up? War is the most degrading thing one human can do to another, sparing our most precious citizens from this inhuman indignity is what civilized nations do. If we allow this then what is the use of fighting to begin with? We have already lost.
1/3/19	Service does have inherent value to citizens and the country. It instills a value system, teaches members to work as a team, and to overcome adversity and build resiliency. One of the barriers to participation in the military is the sexist attitude that's prevalent. I believe that the messaging for military service needs to move away from a male-centric message to attract more females to join. I believe most females still believe that military service is geared toward males. I also believe that the military draft/draft contingency is no longer necessary and should be abolished. If, however, the Selective Service System is to stay in place, it must include the provision that all (men and women) must register. I would like to see some sort of mandatory service requirement for US Citizens that could be either military service, Coast Guard service, Peace Corps Service, or AmeriCorps Service.
1/3/19	As a member of a state the Selective Service Board, I firmly believe that ALL U.S. citizens, to include women, 18 years of age, should register for the Selective Service. Current exceptions should apply. This should be a citizen obligation like jury service. Registration should be required with the Post Office or Department of Motor Vehicles. The Federal government will have to provide additional funding to meet the needs of registering.
1/3/19	A return to availability of two-year enlistments for army and navy recruits would be attractive to many young people. Although they would not be given much schooling, the pot was sweetened in the past with an attractive signing-bonus.



1/3/19	Throughout my adult-life, I have been aware of intelligent people being apprehensive of giving over control of their life (or that of their children) to non-commissioned officers of dubious quality and training. My service experience revealed many semi-literate and dis-functional noncoms. Oral review-boards for advancement had been eliminated; and leadership training was brief, superficial, or nonexistent. Tougher training and oral review-boards for advancement to E-5/E-6 would weed-out duds, and stress that abuse of subordinates should not be the norm.
1/3/19	As a draftee during the Vietnam war I dropped out of college due to unavailable funds. Deferments shouldn't be given for college, medical, or class. College was an excuse to avoid the draft thereby many went just to avoid service or cause they had rich parents to pay for it or a doctor to say they had a condition like flat feet, old injuries, etc. They could play sports and exercise but couldn't serve in military. There are plenty of jobs in military like clerical, payroll, computer tech, etc. that these young people could do with minor physical disabilities. Deferments were unfair to poor, middle class, minorities. Then the draft dodgers were given amnesty which will create a big problem again if the draft isn't inclusive of all citizen no matter what your financial or medical reasons are. By given these draft dodgers amnesty to continue with the old selective service methods will once again see a migration of young Americans flee this great country. Politicians must be aware their own kids will be subjected to be drafted with no deferments just like average Americans. If Politicians fear their own kids will be injured or killed in a far away country they will most likely not vote on war unless it is absolutely necessary. The old selective service rules must be changed to include all Americans not just the poor, middle class, and minorities. No deferments unless wheelchair bound and proven by military doctors. No college deferments til time served in military with lottery system developed to include all classes. Many will step up and join or be drafted without protesting. But if the Rich and powerful politicians don't make the same sacrifices of their own offspring you will see a flight of America's youth like never before. There is no reason that college can't wait til after military service. No deferments for college unless it is the service academies which is understandable. Better care of our Veterans and jobs when they return with medical help for any issues including PTSD shortly after returning from war. Many Vietnam vets and War War II vets never got this help. Many suicides and unnecessary deaths due to inadequate medical Psy chological help was a deep cause of this. Remember when the protester of the late 60's and early 70's changed the minds of Americans. It was also many Vietnam Veterans that were protesting which had a big impact on Americans. Selective Service rules must be changed and drastically to include all classes of Americans in a fair and non-discriminatory way. Thank You.
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1/3/19	<p>Everyone “owes” their country, Freedom is not Free”. And I mean everyone!</p> <p>American ladies fought for equal rights for years, but with those rights comes responsibility, the Draft being one of those. This does not mean people would have to serve in the military. It is not for everyone. National service could have the same benefits as military service...health care under a Tri-Care like system, educational benefits, and of course training. Public Service could be encouraged with job training in computers. They could train on Data Entry projects for companies, with the possibility of a position later with that company. Food Service Training with Chefs feeding in soup kitchens learning the food service trade. Working and training as a Medical Assistant in a hospital or clinic in the projects, this training could lead to job placement or more training later.</p> <p>The thing we have to remember is the WIIFM (What ‘s in it for Me) Problem. This can be overcome with pay, placement in barracks to live, and benefits. And development of PRIDE in Self via positive leadership!</p> <p>As a 26 year veteran, I found the thing young people wanted was guidance and discipline...imposed discipline leads to self discipline. A few will be lost but most will gain from this project. I would be more than happy to work on it.</p> <p>Charles E. Stepro, CMSgt. ,USAF Retired ██████████ Marion, Texas ██████████</p>

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1/3/19	<p>As a veteran and former combat helicopter pilot during the Vietnam War, I strongly feel that all young Americans could benefit in military service, especially in the content of what is perceived as, and in reality the attitudes of our younger generations toward our country. Discipline and respect is typically lacking in this group of citizens as well as the knowledge of our history as a great nation. According to many current surveys,over half of this generation has little regard for America. Two or Three years of mandatory service would do wonders to give these people some stock in our great Nation. That said, reinstate the draft and make it all inclusive...men, women and LGBT and some with minor handicaps for they all reap the rewards of our free society, not just the 1As. There are plenty jobs in the military for all to participate. A suggestion would be to induct recruits within 90 days of their 18TH birthday before pursuing a career or more formal education. This would instill responsibility, accountability and maturity of which would be an asset when they go on in their educations and into society. The draft will fill the deficits in the ranks and save money and time.</p>

1/4/19	<p>To Whom it May Concern:</p> <p>If males are required to continue registering with the Selective Service for the draft, then females should also be required to register as well. The antiquated nature of this gender specific requirement unfairly targets males--even though women can now serve in all roles in all of the branches of the military. This continued biased requirement is sexist and creates an unfair burden on males.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>James Meyers</p>
1/4/19	<p>In regards to mandating women to resister for selective service, that would be a ridiculous mistake.</p>
1/4/19	<p>In regards to mandating women to resister for selective service, that would be a ridiculous mistake.</p>
1/4/19	<p>as far as I understand only males are required to register with selective service. with women demanding equality in everything.they should be required to register the same as mentor face the same things as a male who does not register. it is something females have been demanding for years and it is time for them to get it. or simply do away with selective service altogether.</p>
1/4/19	<p>Service by all person (both male and female) should be mandatory. Serving in the military should be required by all right out of high school. Each of us owes our country this and should be served before one goes off to college or other professional training. Similar to what they do in Israel.</p>
1/4/19	<p>1. Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? Absolutely. With so many parents not having served in the military or Peace Corps the lack of service is reaching 2 generations.</p> <p>2.How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? It has to be mandatory.</p> <p>What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? Good job market and lack of encouragement to do something for their country. Also poor attitude to helping others and you owe me without working for it.</p> <p>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?</p> <p>Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? Of course. Technology will not protect our country but well trained "boots on the ground" will.</p> <p>Are modifications to the selective service system needed?</p> <p>Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible?</p>

1/5/19	<p>I am a retired, male, US Army Veteran and have never had any issues with the Selective Service. I believe that all able bodied young Americans should be willing to serve the nation in some capacity. I think the issue of allowing women to serve in any combat specialty should have a selective service component as well. It's a fair trade for their participation in any job they are qualified to work. I do think our nation must always be prepared for any threats and the draft as a contingency is viable to this day. Perhaps consideration should be given to conscripts? I do think this would be a productive way for everyone to get involved. The youth need to learn values, service, working together, and other critical skills that seem to lack in today's "entitled" generation.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>David Warner SFC (Ret) US Army</p>
1/5/19	<p>This is a large piece of information to wrap one;s head around. I am glad to see that you are accepting comments until the end of the year. I will make an initial comment at this point because this has been on my mind for a while. I have two daughters and three granddaughters and I make this comment after careful consideration. I view of the disarray in this county's and women's push for equality, I strongly feel that if registering for the draft is to remain then it should include both men and women. I think the armed forces are one of the best opportunities to instill a sense of pride in our country and the development of leadership. The tasks of this Commission are mammoth and I hope to have the opportunity to have more input after additional careful consideration. Many Thanks for your efforts.</p> <p>Thomas J Verville Vietnam Veteran [REDACTED]</p>
1/5/19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes, military teaches respect, morals & honor. See/learn how/why other countries fail. 2. No it doesn't when democrats constantly put down their value & need. 3. Democrats mindset against military, police, etc. <p>Democrat mindset that public service (congress, etc) are get rich opportunities - screw the voters.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Go back to teaching "Country & God" first in kindergarten - high schools. Encourage more participation in ROTC, CAP, Scouts (boy and girl - gender specific). 5. Yes, and women should be included. I believe 50% or more of our problems in U. S. would go away if ALL KIDS were drafted upon exiting high school (grad or quit). Let them learn the truth prior to being brainwashed by colleges run by Viet Nam draft dodgers. 6. Unsure. 7. Yes! Starting with the President. Only a VETERAN should be eligible to be Commander in chief.
1/5/19	<p>I am a veteran 1993-1997 of the U.S. Army. My comments concern the draft and selective service. I do believe the draft is a necessary process in time of war if the military is in such a state as to need the draft initiated. However, I knew when females were allowed into combat arms the issue of their registering with selective service would come up. From a strictly academic standpoint it makes sense. However, those of us who have served in a hostile area will say it is an unnecessary risk to force females into selective service. There are differences between men and women (thank God) and I believe</p>

	our enemies will take advantage of those differences if female soldiers are captured. I have served with many more than capable female soldiers and believe them to be very valuable to the fight. However, due to specific risks to them as opposed to men in combat I believe it should be their choice to enlist and join the fight voluntarily.
1/5/19	I am a Vietnam Veteran. Military Intelligence Officer as a advisor with the Vietnamese. I believe women should be allow to serve in any and all capacities in the military. I think that all young people at 18 should register for possible military service. Those incapable of service could be weeded out later.
1/5/19	I am a Vietnam Veteran. Military Intelligence Officer as a advisor with the Vietnamese. I believe women should be allow to serve in any and all capacities in the military. I think that all young people at 18 should register for possible military service. Those incapable of service could be weeded out later.
1/6/19	A draft system needs to be restarted (though it will be a challenge to do so after decades of none). A system that requires no exemptions must be done for all by the age of 22. Separate training programs must be set up for men and woman in whatever military or public service they choose. Basic training is essential for x number of weeks; and after that a person can choose to serve with the option selecting the occupation or schooling of their choice in either the armed forces of their choice or public service field that would provide them with further training or if preferred to serve in the National Guard, Armed reserve or a national peace corps program when returning to civilian life. RAMC
1/6/19	<p>I am a male US Army volunteer and combat disabled Vet with service for 4 years from 1965 thru 1969. I served in Germany for over 2 years with some time in Texas and Georgia. I was a medical Corpsman in Europe and Combat Medic in Vietnam. I firmly believe that the draft should be extended to anyone, male or female who is to see service in the combat arms. I also believe that every US citizen should provide 6 years of military service be it full time or in a part time military unit with proper Basic and Advanced training in a military specialty. If men or women are eligible for US military service they need to be trained for it. Today's world of warfighting will not allow us many months or years to prepare ourselves before contact with the enemy. With the speed that modern weapons can be delivered onto our shores we must be in a constant state of readiness. There is very little contact in today's America between the tiny fraction of those who serve and those who do not, thus leading to a gross lack of understanding why our military is needed and a very myopic view of what this nation and our Constitution stand for and indeed the respect and admiration which the larger free world holds for our system of government. All portions of our well thought out Constitution need to be maintained so that our inalienable rights which are God given cannot be bargained away. Many tens of thousands of our patriots have died or been disfigured to protect our way of life. I have seen that happening in real time. Many more will be struck down needlessly in the future if we are not prepared and trained. Best of luck in your mission.</p> <p>Yours for God and Country,</p> <p>Lloyd J Brockney  Willsboro, NY </p>

1/6/19	<p>service requirement is valuable and feasible, a lot of young Americans go into military just for college tuition and then get out. need to build off of that. to keep them in. selective service should encompass both male and female, and females should be able to be drafted, equal rights remember. also draft is still necessary, just in case procedure. the only value of service has is retirement besides freedom, almost all military heritage traditions have been cut out, bad move. Health coverage through the VA is the worst. some questions require a lot more space than given so cant answer them all. a lot of countries have mandatory service requirements of 2-4 yrs. we should look at that possibility. barriers to participation in military, a lot of people don't realize that the jobs in military are transferable to civilian life, need to be aware of that.</p>
1/6/19	<p>#7 Every one should Serve 1. A necessary to learn to go to battle 2. We as Americans should have every man & women get a valuable education by serving. 3. Please let's not talk about feasible we give to much to certain people sorry to talk like that. #6Yes #5Yes #4Draft not the old but the modified draft #2To make anyone today desire anything is to help them in way they all need.#1 Yes self esteem just being a good person & they will know what that means.</p>
1/6/19	<p>It would be a grave wrong to include women in the draft. Women are already free to serve in the military if they so choose and can meet the required entry qualifications. But mandating a young woman to place her life on the line for our country is wrong. The issue being made is rather ludicrous and it seems once again, we must explain to some in society what has been so apparent throughout history. Men's role in society is to protect and provide. While some women choose to serve, their numbers are far fewer for a reason. Men have 40% more skeletal muscle mass in the upper body and 33% more in the lower body than women. Additionally, men's muscle fibers are stronger than those of women. Nature selected males in our species for this role. Women are the gentler sex for good reason as well. In addition to commonly being smaller and weaker than men, their psyche is more nurturing and compassionate. It is also of comfort to men who are going into battle to know that their wives are mutually supportive of each other and provide comfort and aid in this time and assistance to each other with caring for their children. I'm not arguing women shouldn't be in the military, but forcing them to serve is wrong. I've also noticed in my 28 years of service, a significant number of women deployed to hostile locations tend to get pregnant as that is their ticket home and they must be replaced by another warrior. For good reason, I believe including women in a draft will expound this problem significantly.</p>
1/7/19	<p>I read your article in the January 2019 VFW magazine and, as the daughter of a veteran and wife of a veteran, I feel compelled to weigh in on this topic. In 1972, fresh out of high school, I wanted to join the military as a soldier (to fight for my country - no other reason). My father strongly discouraged this, saying, "the military is no place for a woman." I will never know myself because I listened to my father. It was around this same time that the movement for Equal Rights for both sexes was (again) brought to our country's attention. Included in that legislation was the requirement that women be drafted into service along with men. As I am sure you know, this amendment still has not been ratified by the required number of states, so I believe that until this amendment is ratified, women should NOT be drafted to serve in the military.</p> <p>However, in my "perfect world," I believe that all U.S. citizens should fulfill a responsibility of 2 years of public service after high school, whether military or public sector and then be given 2 years of higher education (paid by the government). I believe this would not only help this country but also help the individuals to be better prepared to assimilate into a productive society. I know this is a socialist ideal and doesn't fit into our ideal democracy, but neither does a selective draft like my male friends went through during that time. Pam Fuller</p>

1/7/19	Serving my country was an honor. Learn from our partners in Israel. Draft men and women both for so type of service.
1/7/19	I joined the Army and right out of high school and served for 3 years. I am now 62 and looking back it was one of the smartest things I've ever done in my career. It gave me the chance to travel (with 1 year spent in Korea) and to meet new people and along the way learned a lot about myself. I tried to stay in but didn't have any success in getting into another MOS. I wound up becoming a civil servant on the DoD and retired 36 years later. I have advised many young people to look into the opportunities the military can provide. But with the job market so strong right now I'm sure they have other options. Would I do it again? Absolutely.
1/7/19	I am a retired Army veteran. My belief is that if the draft were to return, women should be included. It is only fair. (I am a female). Additionally, I have very strong opinions about service for everyone. I believe that every capable person at the age of 18 should commit 2 years to military, Peace Corps, or a government subsidized program. Put down the phones and do something worthwhile - gain maturity, help your fellow citizens, give back to your country - all while getting paid to do so.
1/7/19	we are a veteran and a veteran's spouse who worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs. We both believe that the country and the individual citizen would benefit from some type of public service, Everyone should make a contribution to their country.
1/8/19	<p>I was drafted into the Army at age 20 while in college. I applied for OCS while in basic training, was commissioned six months later and was then sent to Korea as a heavy mortar platoon leader in the 17th Infantry Regiment. While in Korea, I decided that I wanted to make the Army my career. Twenty years later, I retired as a lieutenant colonel of infantry, with tours of duty in Korea (twice), Vietnam, West Berlin, and the Pentagon. I was the first and only member of my family to make a career out of military service, which wouldn't have happened if I hadn't been drafted and been exposed to military service.</p> <p>Here's the pitch: As a high school teacher, I realized that today's 18-year-olds are for the most part not ready for college, which both ACT and SAT testers have pretty much confirmed. So the federal government offers four years of free tuition at participating colleges and universities to young men and women who successfully complete two years of service in (their choice): any of the armed services or Coast Guard; local police, fire departments or EMT services; TSA; border patrol; Peace Corps; Vista; teachers' aides in inner-city schools; aides in low-income medical facilities; etc.</p> <p>At the end of two years, supervisors sign off on evaluations about how these student performed their duties and responsibilities. (Periodic evaluations as well, of course.) Successful candidates earn four years of free tuition at any college/university that has signed on for the program.</p> <p>How to fund the darn thing? Students are unpaid during their two-year obligation but the host facility pays a small sum (\$100 or \$200 each quarter?) while the student works there. Funds are sent to the federal agency administering the program and are disbursed each semester to the college/university where the student enrolls as long as the student remains in good standing.</p> <p>Advantages should be obvious: A generation of mature college freshmen. They have experienced the "real world" and have a better idea of what their capabilities and interests are, instead of beginning college with no idea of what they're really good at. Colleges will experience less turnover, fewer dropouts, more mature, better-focused young men and young women, instead of today's teenagers who view college as just a chance to escape from home and prolong their adolescence.</p> <p>At some point (which will never happen of course), this program proves so successful in preparing America's young men and women for their futures that Congress decides to make it mandatory for all high school graduates before proceeding on to college.</p> <p>Wow! Mature young people, 20 years old, with "real-world" experience in serving others as part of a team working to benefit our nation and its</p>

	<p>communities! It's almost too delightful to imagine!</p> <p>Bob Orkand Lt. Col., U.S. Army, Infantry (Retired) High school English teacher (Retired) Huntsville, Texas</p>
1/9/19	<p>re: article in VFW Mag. women/draft As a member of a family of generations of veterans and the mother of three sons in the service and wife of a veteran, I most emphatically disagree with the notion of the draft at all and women being conscripted in particular. As politically incorrect as it may be, facts don't care about your feelings. Women in most areas of the military are deleterious to that institution for a host of reasons. Blurring the lines between the sexes has destroyed our culture and has caused untold harm to women and families. God did not make women to be warriors; they are to 'keep the home fires burning' while the men fulfill that role. I know from male family members and friends that they feel held back by the women they serve with. And with the current 'transgender' issues, men are now encouraged to 'self-identify' as females so that they have lower expectations to meet. The fact that women get so many passes and lower standards is frustrating to the men as well. It also causes problems with unit cohesion, trust issues, and a sense that women are 'invading' the realm of manhood so that it now seems that there is no place left for them to go to be who they were created to be. Furthermore, while I am very proud of the men in my family who serve and have encouraged it in my own sons, I forbid my daughters to consider it for these reasons (not that any of them want to anyway) because I know the difficulties that come from serving in combat, etc, {moral, psychological, and physical} because they just aren't designed for that vocation. Therefore, it would be difficult for one of these young ladies to claim conscience objector status when the men in their family are career service members. We need women to be women and that means raising good families, volunteering, filling in the gaps that servicemen leave when they are deployed. Even male-only conscription is a bad idea because people</p>

	<p>serving through force only drag down those who are there because they want to be. Strong families are paramount, and strong stable families undergoing deployment are rare, especially when it's the mother who is gone. Imagine if both parents were called away! If you want to know how to inspire more young people to sign up, look to the modern culture. The selfishness that we inculcate in our children by setting that bad example ourselves, the constant anti-America drumbeat, the disastrous effects of pop psychology, and the pitiful education (esp. when it comes to explaining the history of our country) naturally leads to a lack of desire to serve anyone or anything. Return to traditional family values and you'll see an increased desire in people to put duty ahead of self.</p>
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1/9/19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Service has an inherent value to those who serve. The values I gained from service were (among others); pride in my country, its flag and in the service. An experience that I can relate to those who are serving now, a real sense of patriotism and pride in my time in the service and serving in a combat zone. 2. By teaching patriotic values, the constitution and our historical heritage from elementary school through college. Most young people have no concept of our true history and the price paid for the freedoms they enjoy today because of our current educational system. 3. Barriers are: prejudice against the military and a failure to understanding the value of serving. 4. By basing pay grades not only on ranks and time-in-service, but on specific skill and education levels much like civilian organizations do. 5. Yes. It would be catastrophic in today's world to attempt to create a Selective Service organization in the event of a sudden and major conflict should a draft be needed. 6. Yes. All young Americans should be required to register including women. 7. No. Although I was a draftee, serving is a privilege, the military is not a good fit for everyone. For example, I am a firm believer that although women should be registered, they should never be placed into line units as this would create a hardship for them and degrade the fighting capacity of the men in their unit. Since approx. 90% to 95% of all military personnel serve in a non-combat capacity, there are opportunities for everyone without making the military a social experiment.
1/10/19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? Service provides a benefit to those served. Service should provide the satisfaction and meet the duty of citizens to 'pay back' our Country for the values and security provided. 2. How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? Good question. Currently, the U.S. could do more to improve the lot of its veterans. Then, extend some benefits as thanks to citizens who provide service in non-military ways. 3. What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? Barriers include having the entire process voluntary rather than mandatory. Make it mandatory. Recipients of the service must provide at least a minimum wage to keep whole the people who otherwise could not afford to provide service. Media coverage has to be considered and promote the positives. 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? Create some strong incentives to those who serve: employment opportunities afterwards, cash incentive bonuses for those who complete the service, educational opportunities (scholarships, fellowships, internships) to those who have served. Civil service opportunities. Etc. 5. Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? Yes, both for males AND females going forward. 6. Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Yes, to include females going forward. 7. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? Potentially valuable, necessary if everyone is required to serve in some way, and potentially feasible (may be politically difficult).

1/10/19	<p>Being a combat veteran of Vietnam and Persian Gulf war I respect every man and woman who serves in our military. I've always been a advocate to keep the draft in effect, although I don't think that women should be subject to the draft. Without looking like I am a male chauvinist and women cannot perform equal duties in the military, I truly respect every woman that has the desire to take up arms to defend our nation and perform as well, if not better than many servicemen . I actually respect military women more than any man who will not serve our country in the military. During the Gulf war I served with many women in my outfit and felt they were a credit to the service. In the event there was a major conflict and a draft was necessary every able body man should be drafted into the military just like the old days. In this day and age I am sure that many women would enlist to join the fight without being forced into the draft. Shame on any man who attempts to avoid defending our country that provides so well for our citizens. So in conclusion I am and always been in favor of an active draft for able body men with a mandatory enlistment of 2 years. Women on the other hand can still enlist if so desired or play some vital role on the civilian front just like they did during World War II. Most veterans, men or woman, that serve honorably are proud of their service and deserve the recognition for their sacrifices.</p>
1/11/19	<p>I suggest that all Americans have an obligation to serve two years following high school. This would make them more mature for entering college or an occupation. It also would provide all enrollees with a "give back" attitude that would stay with them throughout life. The two years; service could be military, Peace Corps, Americorps, or some other similar program. This should be men and women.</p>
1/14/19	<p>Everyone, upon reaching the age of 18 should be required to register selective service and required to perform 2 years service (military or public service). This serves to strengthen our nation with everyone having a "buy in" into our homogeneous society. Allows for increased maturity, better preparing our youth for the "real world", and allows them to earn toward a higher education (is desired) instead of mo/dad paying their way or accumulating huge tuition loan debts. Puts everyone on equal footing and creates a bonding experience necessary for cooperative government.</p>

1/14/19

Re: military training for all.

Living 87-years as an American Citizen has given me the wisdom to advocate the establishment of a mandatory draft for all American citizens when they reach the age of 18. Having written this statement, I base my thinking on the fact that the American Republic without military training for all is in jeopardy of being destroyed both within and the outside of our great nations borders. Thoughtful Americans know that many who live here and overseas wish our government to fall. Note: Democratic Israel has similar problems as ours but has successfully financed and maintained mandatory military service for all in order to protect their country both inside and outside.

As a drafted American Army Combat Infantry Soldier of the Korean War, having served 2-years of active duty and 8-years mandatory inactive reserve duty, I learned to love my country even more than I loved it before being drafted. Since my retirement as a career public school teacher presently, as a Life Member of all the VFW, American Legion and the National KWVA, I have been active in marching in many parades, even at the founding the Korean War Veterans Monument in Washington, D.C. Additionally, while serving on my local chapters of the KWVA and the VFW's Burial Squad Teams I served and continue to serve now at age 87 as a rifleman for a total of 810 military burials for service men and women in all kinds of Northeast Ohio weather. And, I helped establish, and name, the Ohio Western Reserve Military Cemetery. Even further, I assisted international relations by helping to obtain from Neo, Japan the Usuzumi-NO-Sakura cherry trees to be established in the Potomac Basic in Washington D.C. These Japanese honored trees were seedlings grafted onto American cherry tree roots. The original Neo tree was planted 2,000-years ago.

Not having had military training, I would not have been able to protect and serve my country so well over these years since serving. I even voted in combat in Korea and have never missed voting since then, even in local elections; yes, indeed, service made me a better citizen and I advocate it for all fellow for American citizens at age 18 for 6-months active and 10-years inactive service. America and its citizens will be better for it; for everyone needs the opportunity to learn the patriotic skills which will help our U.S.A. to live forever in freedom for all.

Robert H. Jones, U.S. Combat Infantry Veteran; [REDACTED] Norton, OH [REDACTED]

Please keep this info private !!!

1/15/19	<p>Dear NCMNPS, I am writing to you because I wanted to share my reality and how Selective Service has recently affected my profession. I am writing anonymously as I do not wish to disclose my personal information. I was born in Massachusetts in 1990. I am a child of Dominican parents. My parents lived in the United States under a permanent visa status for over a decade when they decided they wanted to move back to their country of origin in 1993. There, I was raised and lived most of my life. Throughout my adolescent years, my goal was to become a professional and pursue training and a career back in the United States. After years studying to become a physician, I graduated in the Dominican Republic and decided to move back into the United States to look for job and training opportunities. Once I was back in the country, at the age of 27, I was offered and appointed to a training position at a Veterans Affairs hospital. I saw this as a great opportunity to learn and provide a service to the people that risked their lives to protect this country. After receiving my medical license, I was ready to start my training. On my FIST DAY, my credentials to be cleared for working in the hospital were denied for one simple reason, I was not registered to Selective Service. Since I was living abroad for most of my life, I was never notified that I had to register to SSS once I turned 18. I was uninformed of this duty, and at the age of 27, SSS found me ineligible to register. The VA informed me that this was a mandatory requirement in order for me to work there and that they were not able to give me clearance unless I requested a waiver. After months of waiting for a waiver response from the VA headquarters, I had lost a considerable amount of time for a 1 year training, and was given two options: resign, or be terminated. I had every qualification to be there, yet I was denied the opportunity over something that I had no control over. I lost thousands of dollars, time, and an invaluable opportunity to train in a place that would have been an honor for me to do so. After months of waiting, the VA gave me an official response. They denied my waiver request because they understand that I didn't meet the minimum requirements to be considered uninformed of my duty to register while living in another country. I am currently requesting a reconsideration knowing that the odds of overturning their decision are against me. I quit my job over this opportunity and I am now over 6 months unemployed. This has probably been one of the biggest hardships that a man under my status can go through. How is it possible that the system marks you for life over not registering? How can it be that there is no way for you to register once you are past a certain age? How is it acceptable, that a draft that hasn't been used for over 40 years can limit a young professional, probably forever? I am not against what Selective Service stands for, but I do believe that the penalties for not registering are disproportionate and inconsiderate. There must be a change. Sincerely, Anonymous</p>
1/15/19	<p>Greetings. I am currently a student in the US Air Force Air War College doing an extensive research paper on Selective Service and recommendations. I'm also a parent of teen daughters and a former high school teacher. I believe many young people wish to serve but not necessarily in the military. I propose that a new platform for service to America be constructed, requiring all young people 18-25 to register (all sexes). This should be a web-based platform, ideally with an "app" with push notifications to inform registrants of volunteer opportunities that match their interests and talents. The registration should include languages spoken, interests/hobbies that complement service (foreign language skills, first aid, cooking, planting, construction, computers, environment support, etc). The program should be marketed through social media and have registration a prerequisite for student aid and public assistance, as it is for Selective Service. Recommend the end of Selective Service and use this platform to meet emergency mobilization needs, as described in Art I of the Constitution. It is unlikely the US will conduct a draft, but a nationwide platform could serve as an "insurance policy" for identifying qualified Americans, while providing a talent management resource to military recruiters and public service agencies like FEMA, Red Cross, Americorps, etc. Incorporating marketing, social media, push notifications, gaming "badges" and other interactive engagement will have more benefit reaching the millennial generation. I'm happy to discuss further and advise this project as my military duties allow. Lt Col Natalie Jolly, USAF [REDACTED]</p>
1/15/19	<p>I believe a mandatory National Service and/or military draft is needed and in these dangerous times America should really consider this.</p>

1/16/19	Yes, women or transgenders who desire to be women should be part of the draft. Furthermore, the military is an institute and not a “for hire” organization with enticing words.
1/17/19	<p>The concept is for every able-bodied US Citizen upon graduation from high school or turning 18 be mandated to serve 2 years in service to the nation or their religion (charity). No deferrals would be allowed except for medical or psychological reasons as documented by an MD. All citizens between the ages of 18-35 would be required to carry their national service card in paper or digitally. This would be nationally documented for all citizens.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Service has inherent value by drawing young people closer to their nation and fellow human beings. 2. Increase the desire to serve by making service mandatory and a patriotic duty. Pre-requisite for college entrance is proof of 2 years national, religious or charitable service. 3. There are no barriers to participation in national service if it is done fairly and equitably for all, with no exceptions, other than unbiased and fair medical and/or psychological well-documented reasons done by an approved cadre of medical professionals. 4. Increase participation by making participation mandatory as outlined above. Choices for service would be armed forces, Peace Corps, Americorps, Religious (i. e. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints mission). After 2 year period, incentive people to stay in armed services through benefits like there are currently, such as veterans benefits, pension, salaries, bonuses, etc. 5. Draft registration is still very necessary as is a draft. Draft should be for ALL US citizens, per rules above, male and female. I retired after 30 years in the Air Force. I believe a drafts necessary for the United States. 6. Selective Service System should be modified. All US citizens, male and female, register and are drafted. They may choose to enter one of the alternatives prior to turning 18.5 years or they will be drafted into the military. Consider an exception where mothers and fathers are not sent into combat at the same time, such that their children are left without a parent in the house. 7. Absolutely--mandatory service requirement for all Americans is critical for the United States and her citizens. We are polarizing and mandatory service would bring us back together. Service to this nation (giving back) is critical to moving away from the "me" generation. Fewer and fewer people in congress have served and fewer and fewer of our CEOs. It is time to change that. Bring back Uncle Sam!
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1/17/19	<p>The concept is for every able-bodied US Citizen upon graduation from high school or turning 18 be mandated to serve 2 years in service to the nation or their religion (charity). No deferrments would be allowed except for medical or psychological reasons as documented by an MD. All citizens between the ages of 18-35 would be required to carry their national service card in paper or digitally. This would be nationally documented for all citizens.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Service has inherent value by drawing young people closer to their nation and fellow human beings. 2. Increase the desire to serve by making service mandatory and a patriotic duty. Pre-requisite for college entrance is proof of 2 years national, religious or charitable service. 3. There are no barriers to participation in national service if it is done fairly and equitably for all, with no exceptions, other than unbiased and fair medical and/or psychological well-documented reasons done by an approved cadre of medical professionals. 4. Increase participation by making participation mandatory as outlined above. Choices for service would be armed forces, Peace Corps, Americorps, Religious (i. e. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints mission). After 2 year period, incentive people to stay in armed services through benefits like there are currently, such as veterans benefits, pension, salaries, bonuses, etc. 5. Draft registration is still very necessary as is a draft. Draft should be for ALL US citizens, per rules above, male and female. I retired after 30 years in the Air Force. I believe a drafts necessary for the United States. 6. Selective Service System should be modified. All US citizens, male and female, register and are drafted. They may choose to enter one of the alternatives prior to turning 18.5 years or they will be drafted into the military. Consider an exception where mothers and fathers are not sent into combat at the same time, such that their children are left without a parent in the house. 7. Absolutely--mandatory service requirement for all Americans is critical for the United States and her citizens. We are polarizing and mandatory service would bring us back together. Service to this nation (giving back) is critical to moving away from the "me" generation. Fewer and fewer people in congress have served and fewer and fewer of our CEOs. It is time to change that. Bring back Uncle Sam!
1/19/19	<p>Every American should be registered to serve their country, weather they are male or female.</p>

1/19/19	<p>1. Does military service have value? Yes. It provides a strong armed force to protect our country. For those who serves it teaches how to increase respect for our laws, how to follow orders, and increases maturity.</p> <p>2. THE US should point out all the benefits of service. Many families cannot afford higher education for their children. Service in the military can help through the GI bill. My daughter served in the Air Force. Her entire college was paid for by the Air Force. She now teaches at a well know school in Pennsylvania. Her husband is still in the Air Nation Guard as a captain. He was an E-3 during the first gulf war. His college was also paid for by the Air Force.</p> <p>3, Barriers to military service are the mis perceptions place on it by the left wing MEDIA. Today it is not as bad as when I returned from Vietnam but it is still not good. (I was Air Force) Can you say Fake news? (Yes I voted for Trump and will again)</p> <p>4. Pay military members a living wage. Its better now than when I was in but still not great. We pay people millions of dollars to throw a foot ball but almost nothing to protect us so they can throw that football. (Military and police)</p> <p>5. I believe the draft is needed. It will provide a pool of members to serve where needed. A good friend of mine a few years older than I was drafted and went to Vietnam. He decided he liked the Army and a few years ago he retired. He started like everyone as an E1. He retired as an O7. Yes a general.</p> <p>6. A few modifications are needed. One that is needed is to offer people who volunteer a shorter path to become officers. Remove the requirement that officers have a college degree before being commissioned.</p> <p>7. Mandatory service would be very good for this country. Look at Israel. Able bodied young people will be given an opportunity to grow up and realize the world does not owe them a living. As for myself I beat the draft. I enlisted in the Air Force. My daughter is an Air Force veteran. My middle son is an Air Force veteran. My baby is now on his second enlistment in the Air Force. Both my parents (deceased now) are Navy Veterans.</p>
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1/20/19	<p>Fellow citizens, thank you for your inquiries about women registering for selective service and even the need for national service. Here are my humble thoughts:</p> <p>My wife is distraught by the thought of our daughter being drafted into a ground combat unit. As am I, but our Republic needs the capability to organize citizens in times of crisis. Now that our government opened every MOS to all, it is unfair to place the full burden only on our sons. Opening national service beyond military service is a good idea. Too many places in our country look like combat zones or are in need of humanitarian assistance. However, in time of crisis, national defense trumps all other service. This will be academic if we keep our volunteer military properly trained, equipped and ready.</p> <p>Very Respectfully, Albert Janin Herndon, Virginia</p>
1/20/19	<p>1. I believe that serving does have inherent value. The value gained is a greater and deeper appreciation for America and the freedoms we have. When you serve and travel around the world to other countries, it deepens the appreciation for what we have in America. It also teaches discipline, committment, team work, etc., all values that can be used after service and in the civilian world.</p> <p>7. I am a firm believer and supporter of a mandatory service requirement. Many other countries have this in place and it has done well for them. We have lost the connection between our youth and our country. Patriotism in the younger generations is greatly diminished so they need some guidance and structure, they need to be shown that there is a price to pay for every privilege they take advantage of...it isn't free.</p>
1/21/19	<p>Every American if able should serve. The few that serve, allow the majority to flourish at the sacrifice of the brave. It goes back to the speech by our former President, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." start in the school system. In my children's high scghool, they didn't want recruiters in the school on career day. We devalue service. The barriers to service is knowledge. When I showed the statistics of teenagers killed in car accidents on the roads in America since 911 to parents of my son's friends who were worried about their children joining the military because we are at war, they were stunned by the numbers. Their fears are not warranted, but they lack the factual knowledge to know the difference. The United States can implement Germany's old rule. Everyone that graduates must give at least two years of public service in some form. The military draft is still relevant and it should be genger nonspecific. Every 18 should be signed up for the Selective Service. If females want to be equal, then they should be equal in every way. Now men are being discriminated against. It is absolutely feasible. We give everything away for free. Even public education is under valued in the United States. Nothing in the world is free, it all involves sacrifice. When our 16 year old got ready to look at colleges, she asked how much we could afford. My husband answered, "Why would I pay for something you can get for yourself for service to your country." She served 8 years and did a deployment to Afghanistan for a year. And paid for her own college. My husband is in his 32nd year of service and I am in my 10th year of service. A proud military family.</p>

Date	Text of Response
1/23/19	I think a public service requirement for all is a fantastic idea. It could be beneficial for the entire country. Requiring service in the military , Peace Corps, or other service organization would strengthen the country and enhance our foundational goals. If the new changes apply only to a military draft then all people within the acceptable age range should be subject to the draft regardless of gender.
1/23/19	This event is not very inclusive. I choose not to use Facebook and do not have an account, so I can't watch this event?
1/23/19	This event is not very inclusive. I choose not to use Facebook and do not have an account, so I can't watch this event?
1/23/19	All persons, regardless of gender, should be required to register for selective service. For equality to be truly equal, both men and women need to pull their equal responsibility if a draft were to occur. Women are no longer the individuals who are expected to be home and manage the household.
1/23/19	It is time to get rid of this sexist policy. Women can serve in almost all combat roles now. There is no reason to discriminate against men.
1/23/19	The US Government FORCES us to have a Facebook account to watch the interim report of this Commission! Sorry, I do not do Facebook. Shame on you for being so non-inclusive.
1/23/19	Either include women or end the draft. There are many roles women can fulfill or they work for the Peace Corps or similar organizations as needed.
1/23/19	No women should have to register for the draft (period) - not all women want to be in men's shoes! It should be an option for them, if they feel the need to register, then let them do so! I served (6) years in the military, and I would not register, or serve under this draft dodging nut job president (period)! I would become a conscientious objector, and would rather go to jail then serve under this president! Plain coward!
1/23/19	No women should have to register for the draft (period) - not all women want to be in men's shoes! It should be an option for them, if they feel the need to register, then let them do so! I served (6) years in the military, and I would not register, or serve under this draft dodging nut job president (period)! I would become a conscientious objector, and would rather go to jail then serve under this president! Plain coward!

1/23/19	<p>Thanks for allowing comment. My first response to an article from USA Today regarding this commission is that you don't want me behind a gun, because it goes against my nature to shoot to kill. The voluntary community service would have worked for me as an 18 year old if I could have chosen where to volunteer (including faith based sites). As I was and continue to be a person who spends much of my time volunteering. I started and ran a non-profit for three years full time starting at age 22. There is an attraction to Israel and England and how their young people spend a year in service, away from home before choosing their next steps. But I oppose how the military "owns" its soldiers and if community service by the government had a similar feel, I would oppose it as well. There is enough distrust in the government, especially right now that I would be cautious in how you proceed. If you want to increase participation by skilled individuals in the military give an option for basic training that does not include the use of weapons (including the science and math operating them), keep promises regarding positions offered, give freedom so that people don't feel owned by the military (compulsory). As 1st in my high school graduating class with an impressive ACT score, I could have registered as a chaplain or some specialty, but I would still have had to hold a gun in basic training and would have had to sign away my life to the government so I did not. In my 20s the military tried to recruit me to run youth programming on bases, but I wouldn't go for it because of basic training with weapons and signing control of one's life to the government. In my late 20s I had a high rank official share that he would trust anyone under his command with me in charge. If the military wasn't about taking lives and if it took better care of it's people perhaps it would be more attractive. To increase enlistment, a priority also needs to be placed on reducing moral injury, allowing women to report sexual violence without repercussions and protecting them from those equipped with military equipped skills in violence even after discharge, and addressing suicide risk. As a pastor who has cared for service men and women, the military has a lot of problems it needs to address before being concerned with recruitment. Creating a climate of service is good, but making it mandatory while the system needs some transformation is not good. Perhaps allow people to join the military and simultaneously remain civilians. My demographic: 30s, white woman, graduate degree, married, no kids, non-profit sector, upper middle class</p>
1/23/19	<p>As a veteran who served in the infantry, I feel that women should register for the draft. I worked along side women who were serving in support roles that directly impacted my operations. Now that women are eligible to serve in most areas of the service, they should be included. Also there should be alternate ways to serve, (ie Habitat for Humanity, public service) for conscientious objectors and those who feel the military is not a good fit for them.</p>
1/23/19	<p>As a veteran who served in the infantry, I feel that women should register for the draft. I worked along side women who were serving in support roles that directly impacted my operations. Now that women are eligible to serve in most areas of the service, they should be included. Also there should be alternate ways to serve, (ie Habitat for Humanity, public service) for conscientious objectors and those who feel the military is not a good fit for them.</p>
1/23/19	<p>Having lived thru the draft era and enduring the service to your country, I feel it should be every young persons obligation to serve in some capacity, if needed, to protect or otherwise secure our position in the world. Every person, just like our anti discrimination laws require. Semper Fi</p>

1/23/19	<p>Participation in military, national, and public service should be voluntary, not compulsory. As any parent can attest, requiring someone to do something they don't want to do will often breed resentment and resistance. If encouraging service is what you seek to do, making registration mandatory may actually have the opposite effect. Also, why are men the only targets for compulsory service? As a society we are happy to point out gender inequalities in comfortable environments (tech jobs, management), but why not the uncomfortable environments (military, construction)?</p> <p>People do things for two reasons: because they can and because they want to. If you are looking for people with certain skills and abilities (the 'can' part of the equation), you need to give them a reason to 'want' to do it. Preferably with a 'carrot' and not a 'stick'.</p>
1/23/19	<p>Even though I think serving does have value. I do not think that mandatory service is feasible. I do not want to be required to serve in a military role. I have multiple health conditions like Autism and Epilepsy and have risk for seizures and currently on medications that keep me from having these seizures; these obviously would prohibit me from serving. I am also opposed to all forms of war. Also take into consideration that some people can't serve due to being openly Transgender, or people who are mentally impaired including those with Autism, Down Syndrome, or a vegetative state among other disabilities that would create a hardship for the individual and their parents. People will resist a mandatory service system and some may even lose the right to go to college. Some people also don't want to go through the violent horrors of war which can leave a soldier with emotional scars for the rest of their life. I do not want my education to be interrupted by mandatory service in the military. I would rather join the Amish Instead of being forced into to military service against my will. Therefore, I object to military service for medical and moral reasons. Also understand that community service is already a requirement for graduation in most high schools.</p>
1/23/19	<p>Even though I think serving does have value. I do not think that mandatory service is feasible. I do not want to be required to serve in a military role. I have multiple health conditions like Autism and Epilepsy and have risk for seizures and currently on medications that keep me from having these seizures; these obviously would prohibit me from serving. I am also opposed to all forms of war. Also take into consideration that some people can't serve due to being openly Transgender, or people who are mentally impaired including those with Autism, Down Syndrome, or a vegetative state among other disabilities that would create a hardship for the individual and their parents. People will resist a mandatory service system and some may even lose the right to go to college. Some people also don't want to go through the violent horrors of war which can leave a soldier with emotional scars for the rest of their life. I do not want my education to be interrupted by mandatory service in the military. I would rather join the Amish Instead of being forced into to military service against my will. Therefore, I object to military service for medical and moral reasons. Also understand that community service is already a requirement for graduation in most high schools.</p>

1/23/19	<p>As a 20 year Navy Veteran, I see no reason why women shouldn't be required to register for the draft. Women now are doing just about everything a man des.They could be used to fill billets at stateside/overseas locations that would free up males to be placed in battle-ready units.</p> <p>Niels Slater, HM2, USN, Retired</p>
1/23/19	Adopt a mandatory service system similar to the model in South Korea. Make it mandatory for all genders
1/23/19	Adopt a mandatory service system similar to the model in South Korea. Make it mandatory for all genders
1/23/19	<p>I am a currently servicing member in our armed forces, and as a Male was required to register for selective service at 18. Part of what I believe and was taught was that a republic is a mutual relationship. The government provides national defense, upholds contracts, and protects the individual. In return, the individual is to provide something in return. Besides taxes, we have no other mandated return on our citizenship and participation in this republic. A mandatory service to this nation must be a part of our identity. The people of this nation are to often to focus on themselves. A mandatory service would broaden their scope to see the nation as a whole. And the service need not be military. Citizens should be able to serve in national conservation, infrastructure repair and construction, and helping to improve our nation and promote the general welfare (as called out in our constitution). This is not indentured service, but a requirement for citizenship. There needs to be care that even those without critical skills are not forgotten. I have seen 18 year olds with no mechanical skills be made into aircraft mechanics. Skills can be made. Look at the military ASVAB test to potentially line up members with service that matches their skills. Members with disabilities also have a place. And can work lower level administrative services that otherwise physically labor would inhibit then from service. This service needs to be mandatory for all, to promote an identity of this nation.</p>
1/23/19	<p>I'm a wartime veteran. It's a disgrace that only men are required to sign up for selective service. Women should have been included in the draft as soon as they were given the right to vote. That being said I oppose the draft. It amounts to involuntary servitude, is unethical, and should be abolished. The United States government should be ashamed that it forcibly sent young men to be shot, stabbed, gassed, and blown apart in pointless foreign wars. Not to mention that the draft isn't even necessary for defense of the nation anymore. Nuclear weapons are more than enough of a deterrent to protect us from any possible invasion. There has never been a nuclear power that has been invaded by another nation since the invention of nuclear weapons.</p>
1/23/19	<p>I think requiring women to register is a good move. I'm a female Marines Corps veteran. The fact is our future wars are not going to be boots on the ground but much more technical. The military struggles to keep high skilled technical jobs as it is. If we got to a point that we needed the draft I'd imagine we'd need more of that skilled labor. Women in tech is a huge push nationwide and throughout our education system. We'll need a way to access more than just riflemen. Times are different. Wars are different. We need to think more strategically instead of emotionally. I'm fully support women being required to register!</p>
1/23/19	<p>I think the draft should be voluntary and open to all Americans. There should be incentives for special skills or training. The draft could be instituted in a national emergency but volunteer enlistments seem to be covering our needs at this time. I also</p>

	think an option for voluntary public service should be available, either in high school or between high school and college. Such programs help youth establish independence and good habits.
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1/23/19	Hi, I am in favor of Public Service for today's young people, but understand the resistance many would feel about mandatory service. What I feel may help with this is to link Public Service to government guarantees for education loans. This would encourage more to enter the Public Service while discouraging those who would not have the gumption to complete a higher education. It would also provide future students with experience and maturity to get through a higher education with tools to face these difficult challenges.
1/23/19	I believe all 18 year-old American men should sign the draft and serve in the military. I also believe the last semester of their final high school year should involve military service to know what it's like in the military and how they can make a difference.
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1/23/19	As a former Staff Sergeant in the United States Air Force from 1967 to 1976 I think there is inherent benefits from serving in the military. There is an increased pride for our nation and and increase awareness of global Affairs and how they affect our nation. I think women want equal rights and feminine liberation and they are suing to do everything that men do, I think they should be required to register for the draft. Let's give them what they've been begging for,equality. I think more Civics lessons should be incorporated into our school curriculum so our young people won't be so devoid of how this country operates. I personally don't think that it should be mandated to do national service oh, I think it should come from Pride within to serve others. That's what Jesus did. The military like the Masonic organization make good man better man. I gave this nation with my military and civilian service 45 1/2 years of my life. I have no regrets of serving my nation. Have a great day sirs and mesdames and keep up the excellent work.
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	the excellent work.
1/23/19	I am a combat veteran of the Iraq War and a former Army Officer. I am a woman. I believe that American women should register for Selective Service on their 18th birthday. The burden of freedom and preservation of our way of life must not be fought for, only by the men in this country - women share equally in the burden. An American woman's claim, to citizenship is equal.
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1/23/19	One of my earliest-held political convictions when I was a child was anti-draft. I argued with my grandmother about it once. The premise was that the set of ideas that our soldiers fight for is inconsistent with the idea of a draft: forcing people by figurative gunpoint into a destiny they cannot chose. I still believe that, but I also believe in the benefits of service and in avoiding a separate military caste. I found that, without the draft being activated in my lifetime, breaking from my school->college->job pipeline to serve sadly did not occur to me as a valid path to building a life, and it should have. And so I feel conflicted. I do not think it is just to force a person into soldiery when it is against their will, but a compromise solution including mandatory civil OR military service would be better. Thank you for your consideration.
1/23/19	Would young people doing "service" be paid? I think that if they were paid and given benefits similar to what those in the military receive it might be good.

1/23/19	<p>My service in the By God, United States Marine Corps has played an immensely benefit to my life as becoming a man, an honorable & law abiding citizen, and a father. Without the leadership experiences and doctrines blasted into me by non commissioned officers and senior non commissioned officers; I'd be a struggling victim of my own economic geography as my peers are. I am 37. I work fulltime for DOD as a civilian now and am going to college for my bachelor degree. My GPA in high school was 1.8. Its now 3.4 My old friends from the area are just beginning to get decent jobs, stabilize their homes, buy houses etc. They are CLUELESS to events, politics, and situations outside their immediate bubble due to struggling just to get a foothold.</p> <p>This duality, in my opinion is from a lack of baby boomer generation raising and challenging their children. I was spoiled and spoon fed as a child and adolescent. I enlisted to enforce growing up.</p> <p>A Mandatory service in ANYTHING away from home would force America's youth to mature to a degree of success. Alternative service options like CCC camps and outdoor workshops ran by Veterans could exist for special applicants. Volunteers to military service should be promoted or otherwise exemplified. Citizenship and right to vote and own land could be denied until a citizen "earns" their right to make a difference. Cold but necessary.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The value of my service plays a role everyday in my success as a citizen. 2. I have yet to meet a kid that knows their college could be paid for by Post 911 GI Bill. Obama lambasted them with importance of college but no one knows how to pay for college through military service. Have president tweet it or mention the options during state of union address. 3. Barriers are lack of athletes, media talking heads, music artists, or any adults in kids life glorifying service besides other veterans. 4. Paying guidance counselors as military liaisons to identify, plant the seed and report contacts back to military branches. 5. Seriously? If we fight China in a land war; we're screwed. Draft necessary for men and women with NO religious exemptions. Women should be mandated to NON-combat roles. (during draft) 6. Yes, women should be made to register!!! Equal opportunity means equal responsibility. 7. Yes, and yes. Without teaching our kids to look outside themselves and become their own leaders, we are doomed to communist and socialist principles being voted for again. <p>The hardest challenge is finding politicians that will do (vote for) whats right for the country regardless of political consequence.</p>
1/23/19	<p>A government does not own the bodies of the persons who live within its territorial boundaries. Therefore, a government has no right to compel those persons to do anything unless they infringe upon the rights of other persons. The draft is slavery in its purest form. Selective service should be abolished. Standing armies should be abolished. If a conflict is truly worth fighting for, men and women will enlist on their own accord.</p>

	Alan R. Grissett
1/23/19	<p>expectations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) not everyone can serve in the military or as a first responder, but everyone should have the option/opportunity to serve Nation and Community. 2.) how many background/support jobs in the military could be fulfilled with non-combatants in-service to their country? 3.) Do you have a Citizen's Advisory Committee? If yes, is there an opening? <p>about me:</p> <p>I'm a non-veteran, non-partisan Senior who has served my Country and Community including 4 terms with AmeriCorps (2 with American Red Cross) supporting Awareness and Community Outreach, Community Disaster Preparedness education (including Home Fire Protection Campaigns and CPR/First Aid Instruction), currently working with 2 non-profits, one local and one State wide (Calif.).</p> <p>I can be reached at [REDACTED] (voice & text).</p> <p>Regards, Steve Lemler</p>
1/23/19	Reinstate the draft
1/23/19	I feel that in todays society where women want equal rights, that if a man is required to register, a woman should also be required, or neither. maybe could even have a separate branch for the transgender people, so nobody is left out.
1/23/19	I believe that the military draft is still a necessary component of United States' national security. I believe that all American Citizens who are of an age determined to be of greatest use to the military, regardless of gender, race, or socioeconomic status should be required to sign up for the draft. Currently this is 18-25 for males. The age range for signing up for the draft should be the same for all regardless of gender, race, or socioeconomic status. The only exemption I would support would be based on permanent physical disability. Persons with faith based objection to killing can be assigned noncombat roles, but should not be exempt from signing up for the draft. College students could be granted a delay in starting required military service (if selected for duty by a draft if activated) only if pursuing a course of study that, in and of itself would be of use in wartime, such as a medical student, nursing student, or engineering student. But, educational status should not exempt one from having to sign up for the draft. Any female or transgender U.S. Citizen or person currently living in the United States who meet residency and age status that, if they were male would qualify them for the draft, should have to sign up. I would suggest a "grace period" of three months after requiring new groups to sign up for the draft, but after that, penalties for all for not signing up should be the same. Additionally, should the draft be activated (and I hope it never has to be), the penalty for failing to report for duty should one's name be selected should be standardized and with no regard whatsoever to age, race, gender, or socioeconomic status.

1/23/19	<p>I read about your efforts on NPR today, and I came to share my thoughts as an American citizen (32-year-old female, Connecticut). After I graduated college in 2009, I applied for and was accepted into the Americorps Public Allies program in San Francisco. My 10 months in the program gave me more practical life skills, including interpersonal relationship skills, than my five years in college at a high-ranked research university. (I was fortunate to attend the university as a first-generation college student, from a broken home, because of the merit-based scholarships available through my state's government.) I believe that every U.S. citizen should be required to complete at least 10 months of dedicated community service, and I would highly recommend the model used by Public Allies in which four days a week are spent at a non-profit in the local community and the fifth day is used for educational development and, eventually, team-created workshops and community service events. (My team of 10 created a cultural celebration that served the city of San Francisco in May. We had to hold a public meeting, and completely plan and implement the service.) Whatever model you use, it is especially important that at least one component of this is directly in contact with the working poor and the homeless. Some part of it should also involve visiting a landfill, as well as an environmental cleanup exercise (e.g. picking up litter). These are things that my mother did with my brother and me to make sure that we understood the full consequences of our choices and also so that we would be humbled. Our American culture is rotting right now. The rampant materialism and greed -- not to mention the poisonous political divide -- is like a cancer. I fear that the cancer might be too far advanced, possibly already at stage 4. A national service program would create more unity and open people's eyes. The poor and the rich, black and white, Christian or Muslim... It would break down the echo chambers by forcing people to interact with diverse Americans in shared collaboration. Please consider reading "The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion" by Jonathan Haidt. This will further underscore the desperate need for mandatory, diverse, teamwork-based national service in local communities. I would also like to add that I am opposed to a mandatory draft for females. It's unfair because currently the military bans transgender and LGBTQ people as unacceptable to serve their country. But even more than that, it's not very feasible long-term. Only women can bear children. Personally, I am afraid to serve in the military in any capacity as a woman because of the high risk of sexual harassment & rape. I already experienced repeated sexual abuse as a child, as well as a separate attempted kidnapping by a male stranger. (1 in 4 U.S. women have been sexually assaulted.) Serving in the military would be further traumatizing to me and likely to them.</p>
1/23/19	<p>I believe that all Americans regardless of gender should be required to serve in the military. End all medical deferments because today there are numerous jobs that can be performed even if a person has a handicap. A compulsory term of at least 4 years. Registering for the draft should be mandatory for all citizens male or female, rich or poor.</p> <p>There should be no exemptions for the children or grandchildren of wealthy or politically connected individuals. The same requirement for any and all celebrities.</p> <p>It should be mandatory for any individual seeking to hold elected office that they must have served at least 4 years in the military honorably.</p>

	Those individuals who seek to continue their education can be granted a deferment with the understanding that they will serve at least 6 years in the military.
1/23/19	As a Combat Veteran, I agree with the need to continue a Selective Service Registration in the event of National Emergency, but not everyone is fit for a strictly combat role. Instead require student who graduate High School to have to register within the first year of graduation unless they are enrolled in College (2 or 4 year). The students enrolled in College would be required to enroll following graduation so that their Major can be considered as a factor in the registration. This would help build a pool of unique skills not direct towards combat. Obviously, if you drop out of school, then you register immediatly.
1/23/19	if draft registration continues to be required, women should be required to register as well as males.
1/23/19	What a great way to take out a nation by eliminating their ability to reproduce. it's like the bug spray about the other day. What doesn't kill on contact will attack the female's reproductive system eliminating their ability to reproduce. The best way to eliminate a colony is to kill its females.
1/23/19	all boys should serve two years
1/23/19	all boys should serve two years

1/23/19

I am a National Service Member with AmeriCorps VISTA under CNCS. However, I am also a Team Rubicon Member and a recent Grad of the Bowie Police Department's Citizens Academy Session III in Bowie, Maryland. National Service Members, should be recognized after and during service. As a National Service Member I am either AmeriCorps as a whole, whether a VISTA, NCCC, State and National or any other part of the AmeriCorps Family, Peace Corps, Teach Corps or Teach for America, we should not only be given Service Letters, which we presently receive at the completion of service, but we should also be given a National Service Member Designation on our Government issued forms of ID i.e. Driver's Licenses, State ID's and Passports. To say what this would look like is this: A Purple Globe which is the present symbol and the words National Service Member inscribed right next to it and a symbol of the US Flag on the other side of National Service Member. This means that the same offices who recognize the US Armed Forces Service Members, would recognize National Service Members in the same manner and I'm going out on a limb to say that we are two sides of the same coin with the US Military since we work with them in some capacity or another and they serve with AmeriCorps, Peace Corps and Team Rubicon a lot more than we know, so why not complete the branding process?

The second and last one is this: NCE National Registry - searchable by State and Federal offices should be compiled. Just use the VISTA Campus to create the registry and as we serve or continue to serve, update the registry. When we cease to exist due to demise, place a little flag by our names on the website. Provide State and Federal Offices with direct access to the Registry. Provide the public with a searchable registry link to verify our service. In this, you would have the name and picture of the National Service Member and the years in which they served. If they complete service then their name goes on the registry. If they do not complete service, their name still goes into the registry, but you put non-completion of service next to their name.

Lastly, create National Service Member Badges for life Photo ID's branded with the Branch in which they served. The layout of the ID should mimic the present State ID or Driver's License but with a the US Flag as the backdrop. This is to replace having to wear a VISTA, NCCC, State or National or Peace Corps Pin during the week alone. We should still wear the lapel pin, but we would have so much more pride in what we do. This would also serve as a security measure in identifying us as well when we report to service sites. The ID would not have our service site on it at all. Just years of service and branch: AmeriCorps VISTA, or Peace Corps National Service Members, Our Name, Picture we choose, and unexpired indefinitely (example not intended to exclude other branch's of CNCS National Service Members).

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1/23/19	<p>Women should have to register if men have to. Period. Equal Protection of the laws is a fundamental human right. The issue of women in combat should not even be relevant, because the draft can be for non-combat roles. The website of the Selective Services admits they almost drafted women during WWII as nurses, and the only reason they didn't was that enough volunteers came forward. So the draft can be for non-combat roles as well.</p>
1/23/19	<p>I was drafted in 1970. In the long run, and went to Viet Nam it was a good thing. Got good job training and the G.I. bill that let me earn my B.S. degree. I support a draft, with almost no exemptions as we had before. I also believe that if females can now</p>

	<p>be in all branches and in all jobs, including combat, they should be subject to the draft. Anything less than them being subject to the draft is sex discrimination.</p>
1/23/19	<p>Being in the military does not make a person any better than the next. The fact that having the mindset that being in the military gives a person value, I feel can give a sort of entitlement to some people. That sense of entitlement is not what people need in their lives.</p> <p>A military draft is also not necessary and no one should have to sign up at the age of 18 for this draft, men or women. This also includes mandatory service requirement as there will be favoritism happening, especially among the wealthy and famous. This would be vehemently unfair to those that do not have access to money or connections.</p> <p>Not everyone is cut out to be in the military and with how veteran services already are, the Dept of Veteran Affairs would never be able to handle that many people and that many cases unless we change healthcare as a whole.</p>
1/23/19	<p>Since women want equal pay and equal opportunity in all things and there are laws in place that support equality, it is only right they also should be required to register for the draft. In the case of war or the necessity of re-instituting the draft, there is no reason women should not be drafted into the service, perhaps not for army combat but definitely for support staff, pilots, serving on ships, etc. Drafting only men into the military service in a time of emergency means waiving 50% of available skills and education. In this century women of the same age possess equal qualifications with the exception of physical strength, but wars are not waged the same way they were in WWII. That being said, there still would be a need to rules of exemption for single parents, essential jobs, etc.</p>
1/23/19	<p>While I think it is great that some women volunteer to serve in the armed forces I think forcing them to sign up the draft is a bad idea. Maybe force women to work in health care for the V.A. or something else, but to force a woman to into the armed forces is a bad idea. While we are trying to do away with sexism, it still exists and always will. Men are different from women and we need to learn to reaccept that as a society and not push for men and women to both be on the battle field where men will be more apt to protect the woman standing next to them instead of themselves or their brother in arms. Putting a female into the medical field will still encourage them to serve, help and learn about the armed forces but not interfere with natural instincts.</p>

1/23/19	<p>I am not in favor of having women in combat or part of Selective Service registration. My two boys have registered and I am ok with that. I have a daughter and I don't believe that to be appropriate.</p> <p>Women hold a special place where we need to hold on to some of our values. These will be mothers and daughters. They are child bearing humans (as antiquated as that might sound). They keep our civilization going. Do we really want to send them away to fight our wars? What have we become? What is the purpose of having women register. There are plenty of males for our security needs.</p> <p>We struggle and debate boys playing football but we do not have an issue with sending women into combat? What the heck are we thinking as a country? No to selective service for women, If they want to volunteer fine. But let's not make our girls do our fighting. For God's sake.</p> <p>President Obama who opened the gates for women to be in combat also once stated if he had boys he would not let them play football, but he has no problem with women in combat? Let that sink in for a minute.</p> <p>As a former infantry officer this is nuts. It really is ok for a society to be at least a little chivalrous. I will tell you that I would never want my wife or daughter to be part of the Selective Service and fight our wars. Period. Let's all grow up and quit making the military a social experiment. We will needless kill many young people if we continue to think men and women are equal in every front. My two cents. No to women in Selective Service Registration. Quit that nonsense. Man up.</p>
1/23/19	<p>I think the following. The military suffers from a public image that reflects a non caring part of government that gobbles its citizens and then spits them out. Either this is true or not. If true, then that has to change. If not true, then the branding and messaging needs repair.</p> <p>I also think that selective service registration should still exist. I think it must include women. There is no valid reason why women shouldn't be included. And I mean not one. Women benefit from this country and they should fight for it too like men do.</p> <p>I also think there should be much more civic education as well as around the constitution and all the things that make this country what it is. The country has lost its values, traditions and history. And it's because it's not valued and subsequently not taught. The saying goes: if you don't use it you lose it. We haven't used our civic engagement noodle so we have lost it. It will be hard to get back. But not impossible. Just a lot of hard work. The military is good at making the possible out of the impossible. So I am confident you can do it.</p> <p>I think the military also needs to have paths that are short in nature. No one likes career politicians. And they don't like career military personnel. The problem is one of ultimate power corrupting. Eliminate the longevity of solitary power and good things will happen. There needs to be more checks on power of individuals in the military. It's like anything else. People don't want to give more power to something that they feel is already to powerful and that can use that power to control them. Change this and you will get more people to join.</p>

	<p>Good luck fellas! We are counting on you. Thanks for your service!!!</p>
1/23/19	<p>As a 20 year military Air Force wife, I believe in the value of military service and the value of people who have a heart for duty and country. But on the other hand, I don't believe in the draft. As a woman, I would NEVER serve. As a mother, I would NEVER serve. The military sends mothers with infants on deployments! I hate this about our country.</p> <p>We need to somehow figure out how to reach out to people who serving is what they want to do. I know there are women who are fighter pilots! Amazing! Not for me. So how do we get more of those people who do want this life?</p> <p>I think that draft registration is SO outdated. There's no way if I was 18 that I would go to war if drafted. I don't take orders blindly and I wouldn't do anything that I found morally ambiguous at all. (For example, the military sent to the border to help with security. No way would I watch children ripped from their parents)</p> <p>I've had 20 years of life in the military as a spouse. Maybe you should poll more of us. We have a lot of views on our sacrificed lives.</p>
1/23/19	<p>Do away with the draft until it's needed again. Save the processing money. Otherwise, if you keep it, make it equal, register the girls too. (Maybe integrate registration into the census?)</p>
1/23/19	<p>I find it highly unlikely that having women register for the draft will be highly successful in the event of war. In order to get out, all they have to do is get pregnant, which would result in a huge waste of military resources spent on maternal care, useless training and wasted taxpayer dollars as they could not go into combat. This is an automatic medical deferral.</p>
1/23/19	<p>I am a military veteran who served in a combat zone (Vietnam). I am adamantly opposed to having women register for the draft! In fact, I would be willing to take up arms to defend against a government that attempted to draft our daughters and granddaughters. A decision to draft women into the military will result in civil disobedience at the least. Fathers, grandfathers and brothers are wired to defend their daughters and sisters against this type of tyranny. Think long and hard before you take this step!</p>

1/24/19	<p>I believe that service to the US government is incredibly critical to all citizens and has tremendous value to the government. Increasing the desire for Americans to serve can be done by publicizing the variation in opportunities to serve. The average American (including myself) hears "you should serve your country", and immediately translate that to joining the military. Educating citizens of the variety of programs, and even increasing the types of positions, could be incredibly beneficial.</p> <p>How can the US increase participation in the military, etc by individuals with critical skills....I have a PhD in a government-appropriate sector and have tried to join various branches of the military 5 times. Each time, the recruiter had no idea how to handle my case due to my education and niche field of study. I am constantly looking for government contracts and ways I can serve my country while using my degrees, but it is nearly impossible with the current processes in place. I now work for the Australian government and collaborate with the US government from afar because of this. The system to recruit and process highly educated individuals needs to be refined or changed entirely, AND ALSO MADE CLEAR TO RECRUITERS, so they can participate and serve their country.</p>
1/24/19	<p>As a philosopher an individual who has served in a military environment, it would be detrimental to the military and philosophically short sighted to have women register for the draft.</p> <p>I don't need to rehash the military arguments made elsewhere about why women are less capable than their male peers in combat, especially general population females. Philosophically, however, it would be suicidal from a societal perspective to draft a society's next generation of mothers. Women are still the primary caregiver of children and placing them in a combat environment would have significant consequences on the future of the society they leave behind as well as their own health in a combat environment. Unless the military will give them contraception on the front lines, the likelihood of countless young women getting pregnant in a combat environment is significant further eroding readiness.</p> <p>Finally, as has surely been articulated before, the likelihood of women captured on the battlefield being raped and sexually assaulted as POWs significantly exceeds the likelihood the same would happen to their male counterparts. A government that drafts its women into combat is surely at the end of the line.</p>
1/24/19	<p>It is only fitting and proper that BOTH males and females should have interest in and responsibility for protecting the American way-of-life and American values, and foster knowledge of and support for the system that has served the United States so well for over 200 years. The decision to open combat positions in the armed services to women as well as men, and its successful implementation over the past several years, seems to validate the concept of equal opportunity for both genders. Let's expand the Selective System to include everyone between the ages of 18 and 25, and at least have a viable database - JUST IN CASE. I'd rather have it and not need it than need it and not have it.</p> <p>David Millendorf (LTC, US Army, Retired) (Age 76)</p> <p>██████████ Spring Hill FL ██████████</p> <p>██</p>

1/24/19	Yes, women should be required to submit to the draft. We will never have gender equality unless we are equal. That includes for things that are not ideal. Women have been proving themselves for years to show that they are just as capable as men to serve in the military. It should be mandatory for EVERYONE. Rich, poor, man, woman, gay, straight. Because we are all American first.
1/24/19	I think all women should be required to register with selective service.
1/24/19	I believe, being retired from Army and working side by side with women that they should be required to register for selective service. Requirements for service should be a relaxed to allow for more people to serve their country. Prior to my service I wasn't a very patriotic person but realized that there was something bigger than myself during my years of service.
1/24/19	As a middle school counselor in a rural school in Virginia, I have many students who are interested in a career in the military. Unfortunately our school could not afford to offer ROTC to our students. I agree with your reports recommendation that more support for civic instruction is essential. Experiential learning either in ROTC or in community service projects would be so beneficial to my students.
1/24/19	If signing up for selective service is required for 18 year old males and not required for 18 year old females...then you are openly discriminating against these young men.
1/24/19	I want an email newsletter. I avoid social media like the plague! This is a very important subject. [REDACTED]
1/24/19	I want an email newsletter. I avoid social media like the plague! This is a very important subject. [REDACTED]
1/24/19	5. Yes, the draft is still needed but women should be drafted, they wanted to server in the infantry, well you got your wish. When should it be only men coming home in body bags. It is either equality or not.
1/24/19	The draft remains a necessity as it will allow our military to expand rapidly when necessary. I am 67 years old with an honorable discharge from the USAF reserve. I have believed since Vietnam that females should register as they could do something to assist in a war effort. Now that women serve in combat units, I firmly believe that they should register and, if necessary, serve in combat. I am the grandfather of three girls and I believe they should register. I firmly believe in equal rights for all.
1/24/19	i think we should have a system similar to south korea, all 18 year olds must spend 18 months in some sort of service to our country. this should include anyone physically and mentally able body person. service could include a boot camp along with civic training and this could be in any branch of the military, peace corp vista, americor , job corp or any other national program such as forest service,IHS, phs. etc. i cam from a very poor family, got trained under the MDTA program as a machinist,was drafted,went to college under GI bill. worked for IBM . , got accepted into dental school, and now retired as dentist after 31 years in military. all thanks to getting drafted and following my dreams through a very unconventional route. young people need guidance and direction and a chance to get out o their own. i highly recommend some form of draft. provide room and board and a small stipend. think out of the box there is too much great talent being wasted today. make a difference

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1/24/19	No one should be forced to register for the draft in today's world. Information on service opportunities, especially scholarships linked to service programs, should be more widely communicated to High School aged young people, especially in the inner cities, where young people are more likely to seek such life paths.
1/24/19	I am currently an active reservist in the USAFR, flying C-17's at Joint Base Charleston, SC. I believe service needs to remain a choice. I respect the military members who in the past were chosen in a draft. I thank them for there service, however in today's military I would not want to serve with someone who is "required" to be there. Personally I think the selective service needs abolsished. We pride ourselves on the idea of "freedom" however we require certain age males to register for a

	<p>potential conscript to the military. That is an awful idea and stands against what the citizens and the military wants. Our country was founded on the idea of “volunteers”. There is nothing stronger than a volunteer. If you respect leaders and clear principles you will always have followers. The idea of women being put into a draft is nothing more than political pandering. I hope that no one would honestly extend the draft to women, if we do, we have lost touch with warfighting mentality. I hope you consider my thoughts and I thank you for your outreach.</p>
1/24/19	<p>Start paying your government employees first, and stop the shut down, before crossing this bridge.</p> <p>If you go this route, to make ALL AMERICANS register, then transgender should be eligible too. Even before this becomes essential.</p> <p>Please start paying your government employees, and stop expecting immature 18 year olds be required to register for a draft. They have no idea what they want in life, and the suicide rate of young veterans keep on going up. Before you expect the public to be demanded to sign, implement procedures for PTSD, and take care of your people!</p> <p>America, what happened to you?</p>
1/24/19	<p>In 1969 as a freshman in High School I (the lone male in the room) was tasked to debate with female classmates the pending ERA Constitutional Amendment. I stated that it was about time for women to have to register for the draft. The entire class was spent in heated argument to my statement.</p> <p>I have since retired from 30 years in Air Force Reserves and married to a Air Force Veteran (female) since 1980. We both have strong views of Military service being beneficial to both the serving member and the Country.</p>
1/24/19	<p>Since all career fields are now open to women, Since military service should be considered a privelege, and not a duty or right Since LGBTQ are now considered equals Since conscription of women of child-bearing age will never be acceptable Since pregnancy will always be an easy ticket out It is time to abolish selective service</p>
1/24/19	<p>I feel that if you are going to protect the United States you need to implement a mandatory two year training program for all 18-25 year olds. This two year training should include basic civil government course as well as health, nutrition, and exercise. You should also use this two year time for basic military training. This would be more effective than a mandatory draft and 6 week crash course if war came.</p> <p>Preparing all of our youth equally will improve their skills and benefit the unity of the United States.</p>
1/24/19	<p>Do not register women for the draft.</p>

1/24/19	<p>Hi, I teach high school in Albany, California and have been working on some of these questions with my students. I feel that a barrier to more national service among young people in liberal communities is that perception that public service is either highly political or militaristic. They hunger for broader examples of national service such as in healthcare, education, and technology sectors.</p> <p>I understand that organizations such as Code For America, Teach for America, Americorps, and the Peace Corps are already providing some opportunities in this direction. I think these could be combined in a more structured way, especially if women are required to register with the selective service. There could be a new national service agency with these as just a few of the options.</p> <p>For what it's worth, my very bright students came up with the idea of a mandatory 2-year service that could be completed after high school and would entitle students to federal assistance for college.</p> <p>Good luck on your important project. Chris</p>
1/24/19	They want to be like men, so sign them up the same as young men.
1/24/19	I am proud to be a female veteran of the USAF and USN. Although I am not in favor of a mandatory service requirement since we have a strong all volunteer force, I am very much in favor of selective service registration for all. Women should be required to register. . This is another important step toward equality.
1/24/19	My grandson had to register my gran-daughter should have too.
1/24/19	We should register women as well as men.
1/24/19	As a retired military officer who deployed to Desert Storm because the person slated to go got pregnant, I fully believe women should register. We were even brief that women and minorities were given preferential promotion treatment (that was in 2001). If they want equal rights and more, than do so evenly...or we can all just claim bone spurs!
1/24/19	I would not want my sister or daughter, to have to register to sign up for the draft. If they volunteer then that's one thing, but I would vhemently object to them made to register for the draft.
1/24/19	If all Americans are equal, then all should have to register, not just men. If women don't have to register, then neither should men. If someone doesn't identify as either a man or a woman, then they should have to register too of course, since all Americans should have to, or none should have to.
1/24/19	US Navy Veteran here. Registered for the draft at 18, then enlisted. Father of 3 girls. Either abolish the draft as it is no longer needed OR require all able-bodied men and women to enroll in the selective service. Equality demands it.
1/24/19	Women should register..... in this day WHY IS THERE ANY DOUBT?

1/24/19	Woman should register for the draft. They want equal rights, but then want segregation when it comes to the draft. I don't think so. As a woman I strongly support woman having the same stance and requirements of you want the same rights have them if you don't then sit down and back off. That is not where our country is going. I am an Air Force Veteran proudly served this great country. Everyone should be required at 18 to register man or woman. Equal rights across the board. It is true there are things a man can't do that a woman can and vice versa serving our great nation is one we all can do together.
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1/24/19	<p>1. Service for me is helping those who cannot help themselves or benefiting society in a peaceful way. Compulsory service is not service, but a form of indentured servitude that the government forces upon only men based on registering for the draft. Service is what our hearts and mind tell us, and each individual is unique in the ways they might want to serve our country,</p> <p>2. The US in no way increase the desire for young Americans to serve, except those who choose a military path within their lives. I am grateful for their service, but I do not believe that it is for everyone. The US underpays those who do serve in the military, and no one wants to go to war based on the US's track record regarding injuries, ptsd, etc during acts of service. The VA is a total disaster, so those who do serve and survive have terrible care after their service has ended.</p> <p>3. Pay, the want to fight on foreign land, the thought that US males must fight if called upon, a changing generation that prefers diplomacy to military tactics, family obligations, and a globalized world.</p> <p>4. Pay them well, entice them with more peaceful and diplomatic areas of work, tell congress and the president to stop fighting skirmishes and wars over issues that aren't a direct attack on America, and passively increase the want for people to do public service out of the good of their hearts, not forced servitude.</p> <p>5. No, it is not. First of all, many people of the millennial generation would rather be jailed then fight for a war they don't believe in. Second, with the increase in technology, many Americans would rather have higher taxes and deficit spending to fund non human combat technology like drones and remote strikes over having to send american men and women to war. Second, it is unfair that only men have to sign up for the draft considering that women are now capable of serving in combat zones. Either it needs to be fair, and less militarily based, or it needs to be abolished. If an attack on american soil ever happened, Americans would stand up for their country on their own right, not on the need for the military to have more bodies.</p> <p>6. Yes, make it voluntary or at least require women to serve equally in a draft as men.</p> <p>7. No, it is not. We live in a globalized world where if one country went to war with another and any of them were major economies, it would be complete disaster for the other due to sanctions, civil unrest, and collapsing governments. Social media and technology have advanced enough to where it is highly unlikely that two major powers would go to war with each other that would require a massive amount of soldiers. It is not valuable, as it would scar that generation of Americans and make them resent the US government. It is also not feasible due to the last few generations who have gone to war and the outcome was not good for the US, putting a bad public image in the minds of the american people.</p>
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1/24/19	<p>I suggest that the military draft runs counter to the American values of freedom and equality. The question is simply this: Do the people exist to serve the state, or does the state exist to serve the people? Regardless of whether the draft is extended to women, the draft draws from a rather small fraction of American society.</p> <p>The military draft is also unnecessary in an age of professional military services. Young people forced to serve are substandard candidates for defense of the nation. Modern, technologically advanced militaries require professional soldiers and sailors who have received specialized training with sophisticated procedures and equipment.</p>
1/24/19	Stop discriminating against men! Make women register for the draft, or eliminate the draft registration altogether! What don't you understand about "equal rights"?
1/24/19	What dont you understand about equality ...Draft the Women!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
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1/24/19	Women shouldn't be required to register with the selective service. Who's going to have and take care of the kids if Mom is gone? That role is more fundamental and irreplaceable to society and to the survival of any nation.
1/24/19	I think "everyone" should serve at least 2 years like Israel does. This would include basic training to respond appropriately in emergency situations, self defense, and weapons training. In addition, to this specialized training to fill a role qualified for based on ASVAB test results to function as part of a military force team. Everyone should serve regardless if they go to college or not, have a disability, etc...
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1/24/19	No, you can NOT have our daughters for a draft/war. Absurd idea.
1/24/19	<p>Dear Dr. Heck,</p> <p>As a woman veteran, I am writing to beg you NOT to require women to register for the Selective Service. I understand what military service involves, and am strongly opposed to women being allowed in combat roles. I am vehemently opposed to women being forced into any military roles, whether combat or support roles. Women are needed at home, to nurture the next generation. I wish I had understood that when enlisted as a teenager. Men and women are not interchangeable. Please do not change the Selective Service requirement to include women. Thank you so much for your consideration to this matter.</p> <p>Sincerely, -Anna Ioannides, Veteran U.S. Air Force</p>

1/24/19	<p>I believe serving in the Army gave me more integrity, made me more responsible and respectful. It also gave me a sense of purpose.</p> <p>My opinion on the topic of getting younger people to serve is to stay away from the political aspect of it all. There is no room for politics in the military or peace corps. It is relational.</p> <p>Some of the barriers are the different standards required according to gender. I wouldn't mind a female in combat as long as she performs to the same standard as every other "grunt" has to abide by.</p> <p>I have no answer on how to get those people to sign up. They either will or won't. Part of being a volunteer corps.</p> <p>I don't believe it's necessary but I also understand why it's there. Everyone, including the government, needs a contingency plan.</p> <p>I do think that if the selective service is kept in place, it should be modified to include females. There are roles for everyone in the military. I base my opinion purely on equality.</p> <p>I believe Israel has it figured out. The only way Americans are going to appreciate America is to serve. I think 2-4 years mandatory. However, I do not know how feasible it is.</p> <p>Just my 2 cents from a combat veteran who had his life turned around because of the Army.</p>
1/24/19	<p>Abolish mandatory selective service registration for men or make registration mandatory for ALL Americans. Equal rights equals equal opportunities and equal responsibilities.</p>
1/24/19	<p>As a matter of equality, I sincerely believe that women should be required to register for the draft, just as is required for men.</p> <p>-Garret Girmus</p>
1/24/19	<p>American women cannot have their cake and eat it too.</p> <p>If they are the strong, empowered equals of men, they should be subject to the Draft along with the men.</p> <p>If they are delicate flowers desiring that special place of protected Ladyhood, they need to act like ladies and let the men defend our nation.</p> <p>Time for American women to put up, or shut up.</p> <p>- a Vietnam Era member of the U.S. Women's Army Corps.</p>
1/24/19	<p>I am a retired US Army Command Sergeant Major who served for 30 years of active duty. I support requiring females to register for the draft because throughout my career the importance of female soldiers receiving equal opportunities were paramount to a quality force. In order to provide true equality that society holds in high regards we must not treat females differently under our laws.</p>
1/24/19	<p>I would like to see an all inclusive gender neutral draft. I did not like seeing my brother be required to sign up for the draft yet I wasn't required to purely because of my gender. Woman now are in all parts of military service, including combat, pilots. I do not want my son to sign the draft when it excludes women, in fact it discriminates against women. My daughter should be required to sign up for the draft.</p> <p>Make this equal. Israel requires women and men to serve in the military.</p>

1/24/19	<p>I do not believe in a draft. The draft is another name for involuntary servitude. The draft enables politicians to raise an army for an unpopular war. If there is a legitimate threat to the country there will be plenty of volunteers. However, if there is going to be a draft or requirement to register then women should register just as well as men. If women can be judges, Senators, jet pilots and Marines, they can also register for the Draft. Abolish the Draft and abolish the present requirement for the Draft. Mark Wood, received draft card in 1973.</p>
1/24/19	<p>I feel that the registration requirement should be extended to include females. They are just as capable as succeeding as a warfighter as their male counterparts. I've seen it.</p> <p>Mandatory service would not be a good thing. Ive been in the army for 26 years now, its hard enough to get our youth that signed up voluntarily to perform.</p> <p>The draft could still be needed in the future. We have to be prepared to engage with a near-peer adversary and the draft could be required to do that.</p> <p>CW3 Jason Venable, [REDACTED]</p>
1/24/19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes, people earn their citizenship instead of being given one at birth. 2. Education. Making sure every student has some basic knowledge about the US gov. 3. Low pay. The ridiculous government bureaucracy. 4. Stop running the military like a communist country pay market value and hire the best. 5. Yes. 6. Yes, all people 18 to 25 should be included regardless of sex. 7. Necessary not at the moment, valuable yes very, feasible yes.
1/24/19	<p>No, women shouldn't be put into harms way, just like the example of women as firefighters, I wouldn't want to have a rescuer who needed help carrying me out of a building, and I'm 180 lbs. I bet this is an idea of the democrats in their congressional wisdom.</p>
1/24/19	<p>I registered for the draft while a college freshman in 1969. After completion of my freshman year, I decided to enlist and joined the United States Marine Corps. I served in Vietnam, did my time, then completed my education and spent the next 35 years in Law Enforcement. As time passed, I have seen the womens' movement proceed to equal treatment under the law, pay equality, revolts against men opening doors for them etc etc. I believe that if women really want to be equal, then they should play an equal role in the defense of this country. I believe that it is imperative that all women - age 18 to 25 - be REQUIRED to register with the Selective Service System. If they are required, then I can guarantee that the women will revolt against this level of "equality" and their hypocrisy will be revealed. Make them register!</p>

1/24/19	<p>With the group swell of equality in our country, I believe that our country should step into the present and join many other countries which not only allow women to be part of their military but we should also accept the fact that many women want to be treated the same as men. I note with interest that Israel has mandatory service for both men and women and often men and women are required to fight side by side to defend their country. Since we allow women to join all branches of our military; why do we not treat all women the same as we do men. If someone is qualified for a job, sex should not be a determining factor in opportunity or pay. Being part of a draft that currently is not being used should be considered both a right and a duty.</p>
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1/24/19	<p>I served in the Navy 38 years and feel better about it and myself. Yes, the Selective Service Registration should be reinstated. But first, the VA System needs to be corrected to offer, and deliver, better benefits (health care, for starters, as well as educational benefits). The applicants need to have more benefits to look at for service than are present. The applicant also needs to understand that their service will be required in times of national emergency or declared war. Yes, there are modifications needed, a few which I have already mentioned. Women should be included. I served alongside many a female and never had a problem. Requirements for promotions, especially in the Navy, need to be revised and enhanced to attract the dedication of a member to work harder, smarter for the reward of promotion. People need to be educated that the service is not only about war related things, but the building of character, discipline, decision making intelligence, morals, bring capable of taking care of self in many aspects of life, and focusing on a goal which is obligation to duty. They need to be educated that all of this can be carried into the return to civilian life when their service is completed, be it the minimum years required or a life career in the military I am an example; my Navy training helped me become a licensed Stationary Engineer, from which I retired for another pension. Re-enlistment bonuses would be a plus, as would bonuses for other things - - such as hazardous duty, combat pay, things along that line. Respectfully, Gregory Lesniewski, MM2 - USN-RET.</p>
1/24/19	<p>I'm sorry. Is this North Korea? We're moving to become a militarized nation? I thought we are supposed to be a free Democracy? (Cough...that's not quite it, is it? We're not really that anymore either, but I digress). My children, anyone's children, are forced, boy or girl, to do something that they don't want to do? Then potentially be killed? For what? To not ever fulfill their dreams. I have always said the men and women who serve are a special breed of people. I support them fully, 100%. My grandfather was a Junior Corporal in the army. I have many family members that have served, so I understand the opportunities. I will back anyone in the military. But it was their choice. Their dream. Their want. Not a forced one. It wasn't my choice. And to possibly fight wars, currently, over what? Rich politicians' wars that only benefit them and their bottom dollar.</p>

	<p>To have droves of draft dodgers moving out of this country? To continue to treat even more veterans like shit??!?? We eliminated the draft for a reason. Yeah, no thanks. Forcing people to do things is as Un-American as it gets.</p>
1/24/19	<p>I believe everyone should serve sometime, other countries make it mandatory.</p>
1/24/19	<p>I absolutely feel that women should be required to register for Selective Service. I served in both the regular Army and the PA Army National Guard for a total of 22 years. While on active duty in Germany I received a notice I had not registered for Selective Service. I found that funny since I had joined the Army 4 days before I was required to register. While not everyone is suitable for Military service I would be in favor of some form of mandatory service where people would be paid a minimum wage but earn credit to go to school similar to the GI bill. There are many jobs that need filling. People could be put to work on repairing and updating our country's infrastructure. Similar to FDR's New Deal that got our country out of a Depression. The longer you worked the more years of education you would earn. Or you could get an education deferment and train as a teacher, nurse, Dr or anything else and then have to payback the time. If someone wants to speak with me I can be reached at [REDACTED] Pat McMaster</p>
1/24/19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Service has inherent value and should be required of all Americans as it develops bonds to the nation. 2. Much in the military service deters young Americans serving. Young servicemen ask all the time about the physical fitness standards. If they are in a job as a network specialist or serve in rear areas, why are they required to meet the fitness requirements of combat troops? The one size fits all service of years past deters current youth. 3. Barriers are imposed by the service itself. Many areas like the early and long hours contrary to sleep guidelines from medical experts serve as barriers. While those conditions are expected in combat or contingency operations, they are not necessary daily while in garrison service. 4. The best way would be to get out of the personal lives and move closer to civilian standards. Take a look at the German military whose uniformed servicemembers are more similar to our government civilians while the military still functions well. 5. The draft is still necessary to remain prepared for national emergencies. 6. Modifications should be made so selective service registration is required of all citizens, regardless of gender. Even those medically disqualified should be registered and available for a homeland civil service role during a national emergency where the draft is needed. It ties Americans to the fate of their nation making them invested in its health. 7. Mandatory service is feasible and critical. I would recommend examining the South Korean system. While conscription is of

	<p>debateable merit, they enjoy a strong national identity attributed to the fact that the majority of the citizens have served the nation in some capacity.</p>
1/24/19	<p>I am 100% opposed to drafting my daughters. I also have sons and while I prefer voluntary service, I understand that conscription of men may be necessary but I do not want my daughters being forced into service.</p>
1/24/19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The value of service is that you become a better team player, better corporate worker when you leave the military, you help others, you are proud of the work you do, and you have more life experience. 2. Desire to serve. Let's talk about obligation to serve. This is our country and we should all serve to protect it. First everyone (males, females, and transgender) at the age of 18 should sign up for selective services. Second, people with skills that fit critical mission needs should be "voluntold" to join. 3. The main barrier is not being inclusive. Seems like ads for enlisting in the military still are targeted towards men and not women especially when it comes to combat roles. 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? The U.S. can increase participation by offering enlistment bonuses to women to staff critical positions when they are about to graduate college or young women graduating from high schools with high SAT, ACT, as well as grade point average. 5. The draft or draft contingency is still a necessary component because of the increasing amount of help, aid, and support other countries around the world need. 6. YES, modification to the selective service system are needed because as it stand right now it discriminates against men. Military should be more inclusive and more welcoming in order to attract a larger pool of educated and qualified personnel. Women attend college in higher numbers than men and hold the majority of higher degrees. I am not saying all women should be put in combat roles but should be required to register at 18 just like men and be put in positions where they can be nurtured as team players and leaders. 7. YES a mandatory service would be valuable. It would get more people in the pipeline reducing recruiting cost and efforts.

	<p>YES, it is feasible by having everyone in the country regardless of gender (male, female, transgender) sign up at age 18. Necessary? That all depends on our country's current wars.</p>
1/24/19	<p>Women have no business serving in combat units and are very disruptive because they cannot carry their fair share.</p>
1/24/19	<p>Eligible women should be subjected to the draft, along with the guys who have always borne this burden. Fair is fair. If women can serve in combat as infantry, fighter pilots and combat engineers, they have successfully deflated the old saw about protecting the "weaker sex" from danger. The draft is necessary, even if not being used - it serves as a back-up for the all-volunteer services of today. My only doubt about whether the draft would work is the nature of today's indulged youth - it would be like the Vietnam era, only worse, with more draft dodgers, refuseniks and so forth. Consequently, I think mandatory national service of some sort is necessary. If a youth has objections to serving in the military, then they should serve in organizations based on the Peace Corps (especially in America), the Roosevelt-era CCC, and so forth, to perform public works and benefit the nation, all for a set amount of pay and for a set term. Barriers to participation should be things like criminal records, mental incapacity or physical disabilities. Lack of education should not be an excuse - the service can teach new members what they need to know. When I served (Vietnam era), many of the troops were either illiterate or functionally illiterate. They needed more supervision to ensure they complete tasks properly, but they were able to do the job. My fear is that the chasm between the U.S. population-at-large and its military forces has greatly widened since the draft ended. The list of exemptions to service should be obliterated - everybody should serve their country or see their citizenship voided.</p>
1/24/19	<p>I am a Veteran and am fine with continuing with men registering for selective service, or with abolishing the whole system. But I am very opposed to requiring women to register. My daughters will not be forced to fight in battle when my strong convictions say otherwise.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and for taking the time to hear from me. Jacques P Fuhrmann</p>

1/24/19	Is it possible to include medical personnel (EMTs, LPNs, RNs, physicians, specialists, medical techs, etc.) in the Selective Service? There is a shortage of certain specialties already in the military. And if there is a full scale war home or abroad we are going to need every medically trained person to respond here or overseas. Thank you!
1/24/19	Institute the draft for men and women! Military service builds character and responsibility that young people today need.
1/24/19	<p>1. After a 26 year military career I worked in the public environment. There is a distinct difference in employees who served in the military versus non serving in the areas of discipline, respect, pride in teamwork and reliability. All traits that are taught and reinforced in the military.</p> <p>3. Biggest barrier is the ability to pass a drug test. This is prevelant not only for military service, but also for commercial jobs. Drugs are as common today in our society as alcohol. There will need to be a change in which drugs are acceptable and which ones are not if you wish to obtain more recruits.</p> <p>4. I believe that the major hold back is the ongoing deployments to the middle eastern wars. These wars have been going on for almost 20 years and the youth in America do not understand the significance of these continuing conflicts. Remember that most were babies or being born when 9/11 occurred and they only see the 'terrorist attacks' on other countries. Until it hits home, our home it isn't quite real and there is not a feeling of responsibility that "I" must do something about it. With all of the political nonsense going on in D.C. these days most young people are not very willing to stand up for our country, the majority already enjoy all of the freedoms and everyday things that we take for granted and see no added value in serving or participating in a government position.</p> <p>5. A draft contingency is definitely a necessacity for the U.S. We don't need to start drafting individuals, but we need to have a ready pool available in case of a national emergency to call upon. The draft registration should include both men and women. All military jobs have been opened up to both genders and so should the draft registration.</p> <p>7. I don't believe that a mandatory service requirement is necessary or feasible at this time. First of all there are more than ample workers for government service jobs and I think it would be a tremendous waste of money to increase the civilian government labor market just to create space for mandatory service. The money that would be spent for this category of labor would be better spent on military recruiting efforts. The main issue is that recruiters and military NCOs need to understand the new generation and make an effort to modify their old school habits to help attract and keep the young people in the military. Every generation is different in its wants, desires and needs and if those are explained and emphasized to the previous generation, you will retain the critical talent so necessary in today's military.</p>
1/24/19	Draft for women! This is absolutely a bad idea, I'm a disabled vet my self and I know for a fact we as women cannot do the same job as men. Yes women have become very strong but if a woman gets hurt in combat a mans natural reaction is to save her and abort the mission. Sorry but it's true, Not only that but women require special attention to hygiene, and let's face it we all know how inconvenient it is to make sure showers are ran. Look I like being a woman and women should be proud to be behind the lines because we should be here to help the males and encourage them , I'm personally sick of this women's rights crap. Look if you have the strength to do a mans job great but not all females are built the same, god didn't create a woman to fight , he created her to love and be fruitful. Don't get me wrong I've done jobs that required me to keep up with men and it

	<p>was hard but as a soldier who's oath never expires , I know my roll and how to stay in my lane. God bless and god bless the USA</p>
1/24/19	<p>Women should be required to registered on the selective service, that's part of wanting equality</p>
1/24/19	<p>Reinstating military conscription is the best move our leaders can make to restore our society and help buttress our nation against eventual foes. Some 3 million males reach the age of 18 every year. That pool of draftees is enough to flush out the ranks of our force in readiness. Women do not belong in the military. They increase the need for additional logistical concerns when deployed, are a burden to male counterparts who invariably and instinctively aim to protect women rather than to keep the eye on the ball. Mission, first and foremost, should be the sole preoccupation of personnel in combat. Ultimately, the military isn't designed to be an equal opportunity employer. It's aim is to close in with enemy and destroy it. Palliative roles for women do exist, nonetheless, though those functions need to be far removed from front lines and the possibility of capture. Simply talk to the women pilots who were captures during DESERT STORM to discover what they were up against following capture.</p>
1/24/19	<p>I served for 33 years. Mostly a very positive experience. However, using the military for social experimentation is never a good idea and was the source of most of the major issues I had to deal with as both a junior enlisted member and as a SNCO. I know you are considering requiring women to register for the draft. And since woman are now able to serve in combat, it seems to make sense on the surface. But as the grandfather of several granddaughters, I would hate to see any of them forced into combat. During my 33 years of service I have seen both the best and the worst aspects of serving along side woman. Many served with distinction and some with honor. Yet the question of how to separate sexuality from ones ability and value seemed elusive. Most (certainly not all) of the woman I served with had no problem using their sexuality to gain an advantage towards promotion. They would welcome sexual advances from those in a position to advance their career. And most who were in a position to advance their career would welcome the flirtations. Yet the rules concerning sexual harassment became extremely vague during my tenure. When I entered the service the rules were clear. They were often broken, and to the discredit of the military were often overlooked. But towards the end of my career "sexual harassment" was defined as "if it is perceived as sexual harassment it is sexual harassment". Are you kidding? So an individual would have to actually step over the line before they knew they were stepping over the line. Pretty ridiculous..... And then just prior to my retirement the military decided to allow homosexuals to serve openly without any provision to accommodate heterosexuals who were extremely uncomfortable with sharing lodging accommodations and sanitary accommodations with those who were now proclaiming their homosexuality. Add to the mix those who are "gender confused" and you can quickly destroy military</p>

	<p>discipline and the command structures ability to lead as they become overwhelmed with personal issues that have nothing to do with maintaining a lethal fighting force. I will readily admit to not having all the answers to the social issues that we all face. But as one who has been there I can say this. If men and women are to serve effectively together, the rules of engagement must be clearly defined and firmly enforced. Fraternalization ca not be tollorated from either sex. As for the draft? It seems only fair to require all who are able to serve and gain in both experience and in the ability to advance their career via the military to register and be eligible for the draft. Yet there is the husband, father, and grandfather in me who understands that girls/woman are different than men and should be treated differently and hence should be given a much greater latitude in deciding whether or not to serve in the military without having the heavy hand of a draft hanging over their head.</p>
1/24/19	<p>There is no reason to hem and haw Get it done. Draft women Until this happens, the equality discussion is ludicrous</p>
1/24/19	<p>I am 100% in favor of women signing up for the draft. I understand the reason the draft was first implemented, to fill combat positions in a large war. However with enlistment and retention at all time lows, there are a LOT of other positions that need filled to keep our forces mission ready. The military life is not for everyone, but it will absolutely change the lives of everyone who joins and give some pretty great life lessons you really can't get anywhere else. *I am a female veteran.</p>
1/24/19	<p>I am a proponent of mandatory national service, and I suggest rewarding national service in the US Tax Code with a life long tax credit for national service, weighed most heavily toward military Combat service, then disabled in Military service, followed by Military service itself. As to critical skills, please look at QDR "Civil Skills" and start there. I can be contacted at [REDACTED] for any followup discussions. Thank you.</p>
1/24/19	<p>Selective Service needs to be maintained, and probably should be expanded to women. However, in its current incarnation, Selective Service is meaningless as millions of the males registering are physically unfit for duty. Men and women, when they turn 18, should be scheduled to attend a readiness drill that will determine their fitness for duty. If they are found to be not fit, they should be barred from federal loans, federal jobs, and all the other penalties that come from not registering for selective service.</p> <p>Ideally, this would promote health and welfare among our youth and keep them fit for duty. Obviously, some allowances would need to be made for those with doctor certified disabilities.</p>

1/24/19	It's not a good idea to have everyone required to be in the draft. For one, if for some reason both parents of a child get drafted, it's a good chance their parents may be killed. Yes, there are already military families with two parents in the military but I still don't see how it's a good idea.
1/24/19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You begin in the class room, stop coddling SNOWFLAKES- Teach American Civics and Instill PATRIOTISM! I.E giving back to a country that allows you, the individual to live FREE! 2. NOT ALLOW Liberal Minded Professors to teach their Nonsense - If Religion is Not Allowed in Class, neither should the Doctrine of Left leaning Politics be allowed - Colleges should be Professing the Importance of American Freedom! 3. Barriers- NONE - All Freedom Loving American should be Allowed to Serve - Even Gays and Trans genders. 4. Go Back to Regular High 3 Pension system-New system already has harmed Recruiting - for First time the Army Failed its goal! Why join Military if there is Very Little Compensation to begin with and now on top of that the Pension has been reduced..Screw that! this is the common thought! 5. Contingency of draft is still very necessary! Women should now register as well. Why? they outnumber us men 3 to 1, yet only men must register? no fairness there... Fairness and equality across the board is today's mentality, Give them What they want! 6. Modifications to Selective Service- Must now include women - especially those women who are utilizing Tax Payer funded GRANTS or STUDENT LOANS! If male has any of these he Must be registered-thus Should also be required of Young Ladies, using this funding for colleges! KEEP IT FAIR! 7.Mandatory Service requirement for All American and Naturalized Americans is Necessary once explained that Sacrifices must be given in order to continue to ensure American Freedom(Valuable Information), This begins in SCHOOL! American Civics should be Mandatory Elective in High Schools at a minimum! This is very feasible, since Public and Private schools receive American Money Paid in TAXES or Revenue as its operating LEGAL TENDER, thus Very Feasible to attain and enforce!
1/24/19	<p>I am an honorably discharged veteran of the U.S. Navy. On my eighteenth birthday, in 1981, the VERY FIRST thing I did upon leaving the house that day was to go to my local Post Office and register for the Selective Service. Although I wanted a military career, I would have registered anyway as it was both the law and my responsibility as an American citizen.</p> <p>In 2019, women can serve in nearly all the same combat roles as men, if they choose to do so and demonstrate necessary qualifications. Given this parity, there is no logical reason to exclude women from any military draft registration requirement to which men are subject. Equal opportunity demands equal responsibility, and military service to the country should be no exception.</p>

1/24/19	<p>Thank you for undertaking this study. As a retired US Navy officer having served 28 years of combined active and reserve duty, and a father of two young adult daughters, I would like to comment on the possible changes to the Selective Service requirements. As women should be and are allowed to operate in more increasing combat roles in our military services, I believe that women should also be required to register with the Selective Service as men currently do - that is, if that requirement of young men remains in the future.</p> <p>I freely applied for and was awarded a NROTC scholarship of which I used to attend Villanova University from 1983 through 1987. I did need a means to pay for college, but what I received from my military service far outshined anything I gleaned from college or in my civilian career since. Service, especially military service and possibly national service, affords one incredible opportunities but greater responsibilities at an age that civilian service rarely bestows. I never intended military service to be a "career" (imagine that), but rather a vehicle to a diploma and adulthood. I am fortunate that my daughters did not need the military to pay for college, but truly believe that neither would have been disappointed in choosing an avenue similar to mine. Regarding the possible requirement to have women register for the Selective Service, I believe it accomplishes two important functions. First, if women are to continue to serve in our military, then they should be afforded all of the benefits, protections, goods, and "others" of military service requirements that men currently enjoy and endure. Second, and more importantly, requiring women to register may actually have our nation more seriously decide which wars we will pursue and how long to remain engaged in those conflicts.</p> <p>On the issue of service in general, I believe it is incredibly valuable at any level. My service makes me foremost identify myself as an American, not a Democrat, Republican or Independent. I find it as a discussion point for our current immigration system debate. If immigrants were to perform some form of service for our nation upon or shortly after entry, they would probably feel a sense of ownership to their new home as well, and probably to a greater extent than Americans born here who did not choose to serve in any capacity.</p> <p>Thank you again. Sincerely, Joseph Stafford [REDACTED]</p>
1/24/19	<p>I wholeheartedly disagree with the notion of any form of draft. Not every individual is physically or emotionally equipped to handle service like this - let the people who know they are capable volunteer to do so. I don't want to see an increase in the desire for young Americans to serve. I would like to see them make their own choices based on who they are, and not feel pressured or committed to lead such damaging, stressful lives. Instead of trying to figure out how to get more angry sheep to fight for America, how about assessing the ways in which they are not required?</p>

1/24/19	<p>As a veteran, I think I am qualified to have a reasoned approach to this issue. I served under a Captain, in Germany, many years ago. His opinion was that the draft needed to be continued, as it brought in not so willing recruits, who, although not so willing, did their jobs and did them well. And, the constant turnover kept the military from becoming an elite Officer class and subservient Enlisted class. Turnover in the officer and enlisted groups allowed wrongdoing to be noticed and stopped before it could become serious. I agreed with his opinion and still do.</p> <p>As to women registering for the draft, as women have all other rights, then they should also have the same obligations (not necessarily combat roles, unless desired).</p> <p>I do think the draft should be re-instituted, with military service being one of multiple choices of national service. All citizens should be invested in our country.</p> <p>As it is now, the tiny percentage of families involved with military service allows the majority to be oblivious to the issues and hardships.</p>
1/24/19	<p>While I do agree that 2 year public service would benefit civic responsibility and education for citizens, I vehemently disagree that a draft would be beneficial and would further create a larger divide in our nation, greater than that which was experienced during the Vietnam War. Educating citizens about public service and providing job pathways for careers after service is what would citizens want. Most do not care about the various wars & military quagmires our military leadership have involved the US in, and the loss of trillions of dollars to fund these efforts which have not benefited the American people in any way, and has angered and frustrated folks in ways that leadership refuses to address. Additionally, the travesty that is the VA and the abhorrent handling of veterans at every level make current service extremely unappealing as it shows that once service ends citizens are disposable and will not receive the fair and decent treatment they are entitled to; showing the indifference their government feels and has for ordinary citizens.</p>
1/24/19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Service has the inherent value of contribution to a cause bigger than the individual, knowing that you are a necessary cog in the wheel of our society. 2. The values that (most) of us espouse in this country are demonstrated by our military throughout the world. We defend our way of life and let others see that way of life through the window on our troops. 3. Barriers are family separation, failure of our government to provide for wounded warriors, necessary restrictions on public demonstration of disagreement with our leaders.... 4. Continue TV ads of service members performing their jobs. 5. I think the draft is still an unfortunate necessity considering the nature of human beings. 6. As long as anyone is required to register, everyone should be required to register. 7. I believe public service of some sort (WPA?) would help instill pride in work. Is it feasible? I don't know. But working on some aspect of infrastructure, veterans' support, etc. might give Americans a new chance for employment and a better view of what participation in our way of life means <p>Karen S. Williams, Lt Col, USAF, Retired.</p>

1/24/19	<p>Here is my answers to your above questions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I joined military in 1957 because of knowing I had a choice of services and did it for Pride to Serve. 2. Start the draft again 3.To be determined upon entering the service. 4. Start the draft again. 5. YES Very much so and even for women now they are in military and taking billits from the men. 6. YES all men and women registered. <p>YES Larry Kitts CPO USN Retired</p>
1/24/19	<p>Having grown up during and having been subject to the draft, I enlisted in 1970. It was the best decision I have ever made. There are lessons of life that only a strict military regimen can provide. I encourage Selective Service and National service. Both of these programs provide structure to young people. I believe our nations youth are suffering from a lack of such structure. In my day, schools provided strict structure as well as discipline. This is no longer the case. Regarding the drafting of women, I believe it would be acceptable for key roles of which women, as a large group, would be able to complete with success. Not all men or women are competent in a highly rigorous combat role. The women who do qualify should be allowed entry into such but should not be forced to be an infantry soldier. There should be a test developed for each draftee to discern where their qualifications would be best used by the military. This would be EFFECTIVE use of ones skills, without destroying their personal desire to serve. I am old fashioned. I believe , if women are drafted, there should be exemptions for women with families, if the woman chooses to use such. I strongly believe the woman plays a most pivotol role in the rearing of the family. My personal opinion on putting large numbers of women in a "foxhole" environment is failure. When I use the term "large", I mean the Viet Nam War where hundreds of thousands could be drafted and be forced to fight "literally". There would be too much unintended death. My thoughts are not based on sexism but are based on the reality of what I have observed in 67 years. As you have found out already, when you put 2 persons of the opposite sex in a high stress environment for a prolonged period of time, the outcome is usually sexual adventure and unwanted pregnancies. This effects war fighting. As a Sergeant, I loved my squad and looked after them as I would My children. I did not want to have sex with them. God intended for the opposite sexes to be attractive to each other. This will never go away. My comments are not meant to subjugate women but to only improve an already great military. This is just "common sense" stuff folks, with the politics. Thank You</p>
1/24/19	<p>Make it gender-equal. End the draft. Freedom can't be defended by slaves.</p>
1/24/19	<p>The draft should end, and any plans or ideas for mandatory service immediately abandoned. Too many citizens are antiwar, plus there's no way to enforce it. It's not a free country if you are forced to serve.</p>

1/24/19	<p>1.Does service have inherent value? Yes, it has inherent value. Military service through its nature plants the seed of patriotism in those who serve. In this day and age, particularly now, citizens have a skewed view of what it means to love your country and how to serve people rather than oneself.</p> <p>2.How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? A choice regarding service should not be given. Every man and woman at age 18 should have to serve two year of service and then they can move on with their lives if they so choose.</p> <p>3.What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? The barriers to military participation may come down to education and class status. Those who are poorly educated can't pass the entrance exam and those who are highly educated tend to look down upon military service. Those who are poorly educated aren't focused on how to help others via civil/public service but are mired in how to overcome their own situation or are bewildered about how to overcome their situation and those who are highly educated much prefer to be compensated at a rate that their education has elevated them to rather than serving the public on a living wage.</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? Increasing participation I believe comes in two ways - Increase compensation or mandatory service.</p> <p>5.Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? The draft is absolutely still necessary.</p> <p>6.Are modifications to the selective service system needed? As a woman and retired combat veteran I believe selective service should be modified to include women. Several countries have mandatory requirements but only one to my knowledge requires women. It is evident that women have a desire to serve and there is nothing that inherently precludes a woman from serving. I think that the omission of women from the mandatory registration is borne from gender based barriers that are unnecessary.</p> <p>7.Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? It is necessary for the protection of our country, for the shaping and maturity f our younger population, military service is invaluable and whether feasible or not probably comes down to cost which I believe Congress can find the funds for.</p>
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1/24/19	<p>Yes, service has inherent value, it teaches service above self. I have been a vocal proponent of this idea since I read Starship Troopers in PLDC. MAINTAIN the same rights, but reserve privileges (college, etc) to those that have served, at least two years, and discharged, or separated, under honorable terms either from military, federal civilian service, americorps, or peace corps. I believe that it has been a tragically neglectful oversight of the Equal Rights Act to not have females included in Selective Service (aka "The Draft"), even being the father of a daughter. When students are in high school, include the ASVAB with either the ACT or SAT to determine service aptitude and placement potential. The two years of Federal service would serve as a "cooling off" period for youth to truly determine their course of study, as studies have shown non traditional students to be more dedicated and achieve higher scholastic standing (from the idea that "something unearned has no value") Barriers to service would be the entitlement attitude displayed by young Americans, many of whom, grew up in daycare. Delaying enfranchisement until after a period of service would foster a sense of pride of ownership, rather than a series of participation ribbons. People NEED a sense of purpose, of belonging, this is why programs like TVA, and the WPA just worked, and working Americans felt a sense of pride from "doing their part". I very firmly believe that military service should remain voluntary, I wouldn't want someone, brooding and resentful, who "didn't want to be there" watching my six. I feel that some adaptation to the selective service may be necessary to include civilian Federal/State service, or service with Americorps or the Peace Corps, again it would provide a broader world view than that through an iPhone or a Twitter feed. Mandatory service (those outside of service age, or whom have already served would have to have a "grandfather" exemption but allow for volunteering) is necessary to shore up critical shortages in military and federal workforce, maintaining critical infrastructure, and filling the serious shortage of our skilled tradespeople. It is as valuable as it is necessary for the growth and development of our youth as responsible and productive persons as well as ensuring their mental well being through activity. It is certainly more feasible than further decay through missed opportunities.</p>
1/24/19	<p>To the commission, thank you for your enthusiasm for service as a value in the United States. I appreciate that, but I do not appreciate the emphasis on involvement in the military as "service" in the same way that other civilian efforts to aid fellow citizens is service. Please shift your emphasis from military-based "service" to true service on behalf of the people who need a helping hand rather than a forceful military presence that is based on a willingness to kill for the country. I also urge you not to force women to register in the event of a military draft, and I urge you to remove the requirement for men to register in the event of a military draft -- in our current day and age of widely available personal data on each individual living in the United States this is an unnecessary function of government and represents a waste of taxpayer money. In addition, I am vehemently opposed to any requirement for high school students to take the ASVAB test, which is admitted by the military itself to be a recruitment tool and not actually any kind of test of abilities; and I strongly stand against any increase in efforts by your commission to support military recruitment of children, which includes all middle school- and high school-based military recruitment programs and JROTC programs. I would support the wide expansion of non-military service programs that our country already has in place and that should be extended to more young people: AmeriCorps and the Peace Corps. Thank you for your attention to these concerns. - Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford, [REDACTED] Elgin, IL [REDACTED]</p>

1/24/19	<p>1)Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? Yes, service gives one a sense of having a stake in the outcome of what happens in this country. You are the watcher on the wall protecting her from threat, and you have skin in the game. It also teaches discipline and the ability to cope under stressful circumstances.</p> <p>2)How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? Get us out of meaningless, endless wars. That's a HUGE reason most millennials don'y want to serve. They don't want to go to fight in a war they don't believe in that started when they were children, and they see how poorly we treat our vets when they come home.</p> <p>3)What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? The stigma that exists around service, that one goes in because they are either a meathead or they have no options. You keep touting all the fancy jobs that are available without acknowledging that those aren't the ones people usually land. Be more honest about what serving entails.</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? You won't be able to compete pay-wise, so you will have to lean on highlighting the benefits of the GI Bill and market heavily in states that pay tuition for those while they are serving.</p> <p>5)Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? Yes. If we ever have a huge national emergency we will needs troops, but we need to get rid of the caveat that those in college are exempt. That tilts the playing field in favor of the rich and well to do which is how we wind up in pointless never ending wars to begin with.</p> <p>6)Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Yes, let women serve and make EVERYONE register, no exceptions to being drafted. Sorry Yale, but little Johnny Bigmoney needs to serve too.</p> <p>7)Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? Necessary, but not feasible. You will have a national outcry if you force all Americans to serve. I had a friend from France and while he thought it was a good for him he resented having to do it. And you will get a lot of pushback from those who can afford to lobby against you.</p>
1/24/19	<p>Women should be required to register for the draft. Im a mom with one boy and one girl, either perfectly capable of supporting this country. To put it in Senator Kamala Harris question, Name one thing that is forced upon mens bodies?" The draft.. its not fair, its sexist and the second Women in this country demanded the right to be in combat (which Im also completely against for social reasons) they fought their way for the right to the draft. Anything less would be unfair to the men in this country.</p>
1/24/19	<p>Excluding women fom the draft is not fair on the men that has to comply. Why shouldn't women be included. What is good for the gander is good for the goose.</p>

	M. Mazerolle Semper Fi
1/24/19	I am currently a minister in the Church of the Brethren, one of the historical peace churches. I am greatly disturbed by the interim report. First, you propose that all Americans have a required year of military, national, or civil service. Our church has believed for a long time, along with several others, that we are not to participate in war. As a country, we are built on several freedoms, including the First Amendment which states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." If these recommendations are enacted, you are prohibiting the historical peace churches from the free exercise of our faith. You can suggest that all Americans give a year of service, but don't make it a requirement. In the Church of the Brethren, we highly encourage kids out of high school and college to give one year of service through Brethren Volunteer Service. But we firmly believe in no force in religion; even though we encourage a year of service, we do not force anyone to do so. My second concern is how you plan to enforce a year of service. I already am opposed to the fact that financial aid for college is linked to the selective service--that is a forced compulsion which violates our faith! Will you expand the year of service mandate to financial aid? Or receipt of Social Security? We are a free country, but this proposal does not sound like freedom. I highly speak against it and encourage you to look for alternatives. Thank you.
1/24/19	What's to debate. Equality is equality. Draft one draft all.
1/24/19	I am a VIETNAM VET. I was there in 1968 ,I in the NAVY from 1965 to 1969 , they want men to fight to save there rights but not them it's about time that ALL of us pay the same price for our rights , THANK YOU FOR letting me have my say J.B.LLOYD
1/24/19	<p>Access to higher education and student debt are one of the greatest challenges for young Americans today and into the foreseeable future. A free college education for everyone, common in developed countries around the world, seems a pipe dream here in America. However, our federal government has the ability to build a pathway to that dream, and enable American citizens to earn their education in exchange for service to our country and communities.</p> <p>I'm proposing a program where any American under the age of, say, 22 can earn 2 years of tuition & fees at any public university in exchange for 1 year of military, national, or public service of many kinds.</p> <p>Not only would this increase access to quality education, but it could even catalyze a cultural revolution among our currently divided and polarized nation. Imagine hundreds or even thousand of teens from urban, liberal, or "blue" communities going to serve in and connect with rural, conservative, "red" communities, and vice versa. Taking our youth out of their bubbles and exposing them to the experiences lived by "other" Americans.</p> <p>Lastly, this service experience would provide young Americans with perspective and context for once they begin their college experience. It would provide more meaning and purpose to their learning, and help them to craft a vision for what they might want to do after college in a way that actually betters the world.</p>

1/24/19	<p>Personally, I believe all able-bodied Americans should serve at least two years in the military, but I doubt that would ever happen what I can say is this: I personally no longer see the draft as necessary due to the Reserves and IRR. That said, if the draft is to remain, then if women want the right to be in a combat role and have real equality, then women must also be required to register for the draft.</p> <p>-Sheryl Verhulst, USMC, 2005 - 2010</p>
1/24/19	<p>A mandatory six months to one year service should be required of all young people. Our country is in grave danger because we have raised a generation or two who believe they are entitled to a comfortable life.,giving back little in return. Their parents and the public school system have failed them. They do not know math, science, history, civics, or ethics. They do not understand they won the lottery the day they were born into the greatest country ever. What is needed is a boot camp for re-education. They need to be taught self reliance, and appreciation for the great opportunities this country offers them.</p> <p>Patricia Topping Texas</p>
1/24/19	<p>After serving 20-years in the USN leaving in 1997. I am a firm believer in the Selective Service system and believe that women should be included. I also support mandatory military service for all eligible candidates both Male & Female with minimum of 4- yrs of service. I don't believe that education in Public Service alone will meet future recruiting goals.</p>
1/24/19	<p>As a Female veteran, I believe that Military Service can benefit all of America's youth. It improves their physical fitness, develops abilities to work as a team, expands employment opportunities, and teaches individuals to be self-sufficient. Many countries have a two year compulsory service requirement. I believe that it is beneficial to the country for its young people have sort of Public Service commitment, whether it is Peace Corps, Active Military Service, Reserves/National Guard, or working for Federal or State Civil Service agencies. They would develop a sense of Pride in their Country, an understanding of the benefits and responsibilities that go along with being US Citizen.</p> <p>In exchange for honorable service, these young Americans would be entitled to Educational Benefits (1 yr tuition for each year of service) their choice of Training Institutions- Trade Schools, Community Colleges, Cooking Schools, Business Schools, Seminaries, etc. as well as regular Colleges and Universities. Not everyone is cut out to be a University Grad, but we need lots of Master electricians, Plumbers, Chefs, and Auto mechanics as well.</p> <p>We have individuals who have risked their lives to come to this country just so they can be a Citizen. Those who were born here need to learn what it really means. Any individual who is physically fit enough to serve (regardless of sexual orientation) should be allowed to serve. Those who have medical issues that prevent them from serving in the Military, can perform other types of Public Service.</p> <p>I also believe that the "Dreamers" should be given the opportunity to serve and in exchange for 2-4 years honorable service, be awarded US Citizenship.</p>

	Registration for Selective Service by both Male and Female should be required. This will also serve as verification of Citizenship and eligibility for employment with the Government.
1/24/19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. yes of course it does and it lies in community pride and seeing diversity in a positive light. 2. First fund it and reward it... you know like maybe allowing free or extremely reduced healthcare for life in exchange for service 3. Pay, requirements, healthcare coverage, lack of pride due to current leadership behavior. 4. Elect leaders that don't lie every chance they get; recognize life has changed and tattoos and low level criminals are pretty low barriers blocking entrance and see answer 3 above. Plus there is very little creativity in bureaucracy.. also if shutdown and financial ruin are part of taking the job, you're not going to get the best and brightest taking advantage of that program. 5. No 6. Probably 7. No but structured correctly it could be amazing and a source of pride. IF people can choose from a variety of service. No one who doesn't want to kill people should be forced into military service.
1/24/19	Your program has my full support. This is exactly what this nation needs to better heal the divide that currently exists. A program that requires All American youth to participate in service to their country. No Exceptions. All able body Men and Women. All should register for Selective Service. I am especially encouraged by requiring ALL American youth to receive and approved CIVIC Education at the Elementary, Middle School and High School level.
1/24/19	Women wanted equality. Now they have it. Women should be required to register; same as men.
1/24/19	I do not want my 23 year old visually impaired daughter to serve. She has enough troubles without having to worry about being drafted. Women should not be drafted!!!

1/24/19	<p>1) The service does have inherent value, especially for those men who may not be sure what they want to do after high school. The service is an honorable way to earn a living and do something useful and important with your life. 2) I would make it two years mandatory service like Israel does, only without women serving any where near combat. As a man, I would take a bullet for a women. I would be ashamed to allow a woman to take a bullet because I refused to. 3) Selfishness. 4) Appeal to their sense of loyalty to country, and make it lucrative enough to do so. 5) Yes. 6) I am not familiar enough with the system to say, but I would not have a problem with drafting women, as long as it is not for combat roles. Again, as a man, I would take a bullet for a women. I would be ashamed to allow a woman to take a bullet because I refused to. 7) Yes, a mandatory service requirement for all people is necessary, valuable and feasible.</p>
1/24/19	<p>1. Yes, it helps to build pride and a feeling of ownership in the nation, state or community.</p> <p>2. Linking the service to privileges (as Selective Service already does) certainly provides an incentive. Framing the experience as an adventure and an opportunity to “make things better” could help, as well as providing some minimal pay.</p> <p>3. A general misunderstanding among the public about what that service entails. For example, most civilians think that most of the military is on the front lines shooting a gun, when in fact the opposite is true, with many personnel in non-combat support roles. Also, most departments do not have mature systems to recruit and induct these “temporary service” employees, rather their systems are designed for their normal recruiting efforts.</p> <p>4. Continue to hold recruiting events at colleges and universities across the country, offering incentive and pay bonuses for those critical skills.</p> <p>5. Yes, the DoD should always plan for worst case scenario, and some of those scenarios may need a substantial increase in manpower, but that does not mean that we should spend money year after year maintaining an entire federal government agency (SSS) that is basically just maintaining a database of information (eligible men) that the government already collects via other means (i.e. Social Security Administration). With modern computer power, if the unlikely scenario arose that required a draft, the DoD in coordination with SSA should be able to execute a fair draft on its own.</p> <p>6. Yes, transfer SSS’ responsibility to manage a military draft to the DoD, and retask SSS with primarily managing and tracking the accomplishment of qualifying service.</p> <p>7. Necessary: no, but that doesn’t mean it’s not worth doing. Valuable: it will no doubt provide many people with positive life experiences that they would have never had otherwise. Feasible: yes, if there is a wide window (ex: age 18-30) in which to perform the service and if that service can be performed at the Federal, State or Local level. For example, an 18-year old could fulfill their service requirement by joining the local fire department or National Guard, or a 22-year old could join the State police force, or a 25-year old could join the National (or State) Parks Service. Service to one’s fellow citizens comes in many forms, not just military service.</p>

1/24/19	<p>In order to get young people to serve in the military, benefits need to improve. Financial compensation, housing options, health benefits, etc. Keeping them in the military is also important, and removing barriers for enlisted personnel to acquire degrees or *use experience and service* to move into commissioning programs should be a top priority. Additionally, job training should be able to more easily transfer to the private sector for careers after the military. Many of the job skills learned in the military do not easily transfer. Critical thinking skills, ability to independently make decisions, and working in a team environment are essential to success after the military and young people need to understand how the skills learned in the military can be applied later. The draft no longer seems to be a necessary component of American life. An example of that was 9/11...while no draft was enacted, a great number of Americans enlisted for military service, showing that when our country is threatened, people step up. The military should consider raising the age of enlistment as well. People are healthier and more active longer into their lives, and older volunteers who have had a change in career would be good assets to the military (most branches stop accepting folks between 27-39 - seems that could be bumped up a decade). Mandatory service is not necessary or feasible. Serving is an honor, and not all personalities are cut out for service.</p>
1/24/19	<p>Mandatory service of any kind is involuntary servitude and a violation of the Thirteenth Amendment. I'm surprised that a federal agency would even ask if it's a good idea.</p>
1/24/19	<p>Hello, I absolutely think women should have to register. Since they have been talking (no, screaming) the talk in today's society and the faces of men in particular, this is their chance to walk the walk and "fight like a girl". I cannot imagine a better opportunity to settle their constant oppression. They are begging to walk in men's shoes, let them. And that includes the battlefield.</p>
1/24/19	<p>I served voluntarily and benefited from it. My father served voluntarily and my whole family benefited from it. Voluntary service has great value to both the nation and to the individual.</p> <p>Involuntary service is a vestige of slavery that should be considered unconstitutional since the passage of the 13th amendment. If a government can force its citizens to uproot themselves, put on uniforms, carry arms, travel to another country, and participate in warfare against their will, are those citizens really free? The fact that they might die in the whole process only makes it worse.</p> <p>The draft is offensive to the concept of freedom. End the draft and draft registration altogether.</p> <p>The all-volunteer service works. If the military finds itself in need of people with critical skills, it should consider offering more money for targeted skills rather than enslaving citizens to do the jobs.</p>

1/24/19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The service will provide and import discipline to many young men and woman lacking it today. 2. By fulfilling their promises to applicants after their service term has been served. 3. Barriers are built by the applicant's lack of knowledge of military procedure policies and placement of positions. All that must be addressed at registration. 4. These individuals with critical skills should be placed as close to the proper billet according to skill levels. Recruiters should not say that will happen if they are not sure of individuals actually getting the position after basic. 5. I myself was drafted and upset when it happened. However, The time spent on active and reserve criterion convinced me to complete 20 years of service in several branches. Yes it is an important component to N.S but background checks must be thorough in all aspects and all people involved in it. <p>My responses to the above 4 questions prior were based on my own experiences.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. The mandatory registration of 18 YO should continue. Now however woman should also be required as well since they fought so hard to get into combat positions and others previously filled by men. 7. Of this I still have doubts as to the feasibility of this action. Men/women in combat positions, long drawn out wars, lengthy training operations and close proximity to each other could cause problems that can escalate in and/or out of the military and cause more problems than it is worth. I feel they should be housed in separate locations whenever possible. Woman may well be an important and valuable asset to the military in their own way. Just be very aware of all claimed differences in individual's way of life. It is no longer just men and women. These beliefs could cause situations in countless other ways the military has not yet absolved.
1/24/19	<p>Yes; service have inherent value. Being a responsible citizen requires that one demonstrate a long-term commitment, passion, and interest to the greater social good. This shows an understanding of the awesome responsibility exercised when voting; deciding matters of great importance for a large group with differing interest. Additionally, shared experience of service provides citizens with a point of commonality. A point of common interest is vital in order to debate and hopefully find compromise on social differences before they become entrenched ideological positions.</p> <p>I don't know how to "encourage" youth to serve but barriers to participation in military particular are onerous. Prior Marijuana use even up to the day before entering a recruiters shouldn't be a dis qualifier in this era; nor should being "too old" or having bad credit. There are numerous pointless barriers to military service. Any mentally competent adult, regardless of age or infirmity should have the opportunity to serve. There are numerous non-combat roles available to ensure that every citizen has an opportunity to serve in the military if they wish. There exist units & positions capable of accommodating any physical ability no matter how unfit for combat service.</p> <p>The above would help the U.S. increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with critical skills Yes we should keep selective service registration. Every mentally competent adult (including women), regardless of age or infirmity should be registered and called up if they have a needed skill in an emergency. Mandatory service requirements may be valuable but aren't feasible in our current culture.</p>

1/24/19	<p>I believe we should bring women to an equal level with men in the Selective Service requirements. With women having gained acceptance and access to military combat roles, the time is now. The existing Selective Service system has adequate provisions to handle women.</p> <p>The Selective Service system is essential to maintaining readiness in the event of a large scale military action such as another "world war".</p> <p>While volunteer service is valuable for individual growth, it is not for all young people. A mandatory service requirement is not desirable in my opinion.</p>
1/24/19	<p>I am a Vietnam Veteran. I served in the regular Air Force, followed by the Navy and Army Reserves, for a total of 24 years combined service. I am a retired Police officer, After retiring from Law Enforcement after 20 years, I obtained by Private Investigator's license so that I could work for the DOD as a contract investigator, which I did for the next 9 years. I am now fully retired and age 70. I am female.</p> <p>Obviously I believe that public service has inherent value. Most of my adult life has been spent in service of one sort or another. However, todays public and university education no longer inspires an attitude of service. The exact opposite, in fact. Public service is scorned openly by the public, the press and many of our elected and public officials. I would guess that in today's attitudes, the only way to get the young to consider public service is to offer them something tangible in return. The military has the GI bill. Maybe a forgiveness of part of college debt, or to pay for needed skill set training in return for a period of public service.</p> <p>I believe that a military draft is an absolute necessity. With current social attitudes, it is now the only way to bring in the highly educated or skilled specialists that are needed. I also feel that women, as citizens of this country, should equally bear their part of the military draft requirement. I DO NOT want to see the physical, mental and psychological requirements for service and training, or for any skill, to be lowered in an effort to increase the number of recruits, OR because of the slowly increasing inclusion of women in "non-traditional" military roles.</p>
1/24/19	<p>I think service should be mandatory, I also feel the military is way behind on equality. Everything from physical fitness test to you name it. I am tired of seeing men portrayed as the bad guy in our society but bears the brunt of service. Drop it or make it equal!</p>
1/24/19	<p>As a Marine Corps vet I think Selective Service should continue with all genders required to serve in military, public or national service. Ideally whatever service option, basic military training--say, 1 month--should be part of the program. Everyone should be registered and permitted to indicate their preference for type of service. No exemptions except for proven physical or mental health reasons. Otherwise, Universal Service, NOT Selective Service!</p> <p>A citizens military has been part of US history since the beginning, starting with the militia, for several good reasons. The All-Volunteer Army broke with that premise and has resulted in a skewed military and foreign policy.</p>

	<p>Congress should retake its war authorization and decide if a call-up among those registered for Universal Service is necessary in particular circumstances.</p>
1/24/19	<p>Women need to register for selective service as men do. This idea is consistent with equal opportunity, equality, and responsibility as an American citizen</p>
1/24/19	<p>I am personally a big proponent of required national service but agree that would be unpalatable to the American public at this point. What I think they could tolerate, however, would be the equitable enrollment of women 18-25 in Selective Service. I think the unequitable hinging of Federal benefits (student aid) on enrollment for young men and not women should end - and what more equitable way than adding women to the registry?</p> <p>I think that, after a few years of that, the Commission or another commission later down the line could introduce a mandatory service requirement for all Americans and the public, who by then had grown up with all sexes enrolled in the possibility of a draft, would find it fair and encourage it. This would open up all sorts of national program opportunities - an expansion of Americorps (of which I was a leader of in two different years and programs) perhaps into something resembling the CCC of yore with planting of forests and infrastructure improvements; a new expansion of soft power through the PeaceCorps; or even a potential for deferment if that young person desired to become an educator of K-12 - which would allow for a boom in quality public educators who, in turn, would inspire the next round of youth to serve their country.</p> <p>This all would cost less than military service, but wouldn't be without cost. COLA, tuition grants, and other Federal assistance programs would hinge on service, just like they hinge on selective service registration now. I think we as a nation are headed for yet another recession, and having service opportunities for those youth who perhaps find themselves unable to attend college (or pay back their loans) will be a valuable path to have paved ahead of time.</p>
1/24/19	<p>Please see my article in the October 2018 issue of the Marine Corps Gazette.</p>

1/24/19	<p>1. Serving the country in any capacity gives you ownership in the process of running this country. I worked for DoD as a civilian for 26 years and was also a military spouse and am the mother of an Air Force pilot. All three made me very proud. I did something no one else in my family did or understood.</p> <p>2. I think there should be mandatory service for 2 years then free state college for 4 years. No exceptions. No rich people hiring lawyers to get them out of it. There are plenty of jobs that even handicapped individuals can perform.</p> <p>3. There should not be any. But, if non-citizens commit to a certain number of years, they should the opportunity to get their citizenship just like they do in the military now.</p> <p>4. Again, make it mandatory then offer free college afterwards.</p> <p>5, Yes.</p> <p>6. Yes. Include women.</p> <p>7. Absolutely! Too many people do not know how this government works or take for granted how benefits come to them. We see with those occupying the White House right now. The think safe food and clean water is automatic. They expect safe flights and bridges that don't collapse. Of course, they don't want to pay for them. If they get the opportunity to see how the federal government works and what it does for all of us, they will be much more inclined to support it. This is the greatest government in the world and we need to ensure it last forever!</p>
1/24/19	<p>I have several comments: absolutely modification to the selective service is needed. Women should be added to the draft. They (women) want the same rights, I agree. As a woman, you should be given the same pay, the same opportunity, but also the same requirements. The draft contingency is of course a necessary component of US national security so we have the availability to pull our resources in if needed. I wrote a paper on conscription for every American being a requirement after high school. The value taught is discipline and work ethic and importance that is clearly missing in today's society. Barriers would be common sense issues like mental and physical disabilities. Pregnancy should also be considered. However, the VA disabilities act should be redone. Not everyone that was in the military should be receiving benefits. I work for SSA and it, like the Wounded warrior project, VA disabilities are all abused and manipulated. More fraud investigators are critically needed. Especially throughout the state of Florida. Desire to serve, is through advertising, recruitment, grants, and education benefits. When I was little there were commercials, be all you can be and such. Now it needs to be streamed through social media, satellite radio, movie previews, and ads. You play a free game on the phone and you have to watch an ad to continue, it could be an ad to join and explore the world, get an education, make a career, etc. I believe mandatory service requirement is required in other country, so its feasible, we just may need to quit making concessions for every impairment, difference, disabilities, or income range. Finally, I don't know if recruitment is active in low income areas, but maybe the children who feel trapped in the system would join just to get out of the rut. However, and this goes for anyone wanting to join we should never allow people with drug charges or violent charges in the military. I hope my opinion helps. I served, my husband served, my dad, my granddad, all served and we all are good hard working people.</p>

1/25/19	<p>I believe The United States of America would be better off with an all volunteer army. Nonetheless, there is a possibility that large amounts of soldiers, seamen and airmen would be needed at some time in the future during a time when our nation is under attack. As such, the draft is a reasonable measure and selective service registration should continue for young men.</p> <p>However, it is unreasonable to extend such registration to women. Whether anybody wants to believe it or not, there are physical and psychological differences between men and women. Not to mention that throwing them together in combat circumstances opens the door to sexual harassment and even assault.</p> <p>There are women who are more capable than a lot of men, but they are a small minority. If they want to volunteer, that is one thing, but under no circumstances should women be drafted.</p> <p>Even in an all volunteer military, the standards should be the same. Possibly, some could be accepted at a lower standard if they were to serve in non-combat, non-deployed positions, but that would also limit flexibility for the military.</p>
1/25/19	<p>Every American between the ages of 18 - 25 should be required to register for the draft. Do not wait until a National emergency. Women demanded to be included into combat roles, therefore they should be eligible the draft.</p>
1/25/19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No none. 2. Better pay I suppose. 3. Well military is basically evil, so there's that. For the other two difficulty finding positions perhaps. 4. See 2. 5. See 1. 6. Yes. It violates the 13th and 14th amendments and obviously needs to be abolished. 7. See 6.
1/25/19	<p>Inspire</p>
1/25/19	<p>As a female, government employee, and veteran, I paused when filling out my job application where it is mandatory for a male to be registered in selective service and not for a female and I had already served active duty. That was my first time considering this issue. As a young woman I was proud serve my country and grateful to have the opportunities that came open to women in 1994. I did not see it as a negative to send young women into the service and I was able to do traditional things like get married and have children but with a lot of help from an active duty husband. I think service to our country is an honorable and manageable endeavor for men and women and all able citizens should be willing to consider it. Men and women are equally capable and there are so many challenging and rewarding jobs in the service. I think it is the right thing to do to have all citizens registered for selective service regardless of gender.</p>

1/25/19	<p>I feel some of the thought processes in this report are backwards. You won't get people inspired and eager to serve by forcing a requirement upon them. I can tell you that as a government working at both the federal and city levels for my entire professional career, I would have resented it if I was forced down a road, be it military, government work, or otherwise. You can't make people want to serve... you need to figure out what would make them want to contribute their time back to the nation. We have a country of people, especially young people, who don't feel the nation and the government has their back or their best interests in mind. Before people will happily work for the country, they need to feel that the country is working for them. At this stage, that simply is not existent.</p> <p>Promoting the various avenues of service wouldn't be a bad thing. But hoisting a requirement onto people will not foster the sense of community or national pride that you're hoping for.</p>
1/25/19	Women keep talking about equality, well here's their chance, this is about as equal as it gets. (I'm a 43 year old female)
1/25/19	It all falls to equality. The other question: Why would joining the military be so bad? Oh, school counselors tell their students not to join because only low iq students go and they do not get paid.
1/25/19	"If people fight this, they will be setting the double standard themselves. If women want true gender equality then it's for all things, whether or not they perceive them to be good or bad." -Salty Soldier
1/25/19	NO DRAFT FOR WOMEN!
1/25/19	I believe that all young adults should be required to provide, compensated for some public service for 2 years post high school. There should a wide spectrum of services so that minor excuses are not permitted, I believe it nurtures discipline and maturity. However, it must be non-discriminatory to all. I absolutely object to implementing any policy that supports the current administration's anti GBLT discriminatory policies or actions. Service to others is an exceptional action. A first step could start with representation within your own commission of non white people. I am white and noticed all the photos
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1/25/19

As a former Peace Corps volunteer who served in Bolivia, married to a Marine who served for the better half of the 1990s, I clearly have a favorable opinion of national service. I would like to address a few of the questions you have posted above.

As far as national service having inherent value, my answer is a resounding YES. On so many levels, my time in Bolivia has shaped my adult perspective on my adult life, other cultures and the United States. My Peace Corps experience taught me that I can face and overcome so many challenges, it was an enormous confidence builder. Living in a developing country for almost three years, enduring modest living conditions and living with people of another culture has not only made me more appreciative of all our country has to offer but what other countries and cultures have to offer the world as well. Additionally meeting other Peace Corps volunteers from different regions of the country with different backgrounds and lifestyles has made me a more open minded and understanding adult. Sharing our experience as volunteers from the United States also created a sense of camaraderie pride. Many of us still keep in touch 25 years later.

I don't think enough people are aware of national service opportunities outside of military service. I believe the Commission needs to promote these programs by sending speakers into high schools and colleges as well as running ad campaigns. I remember as a young girl in the 1970s seeing ads for the Peace Corps on TV. I have been a high school teacher for over 20 years and know that many young people would welcome the structure and opportunity a period of national service could provide.


As for barriers to national service, I do believe many young people, in particular college graduates are burdened with student loan debt. The amount of debt some of them have is crushing. There should be much more financial guidance for perspective college students so they can avoid this massive debt problem and perhaps some of that debt can be forgiven by the government in a straight forward, honest way. If I did not have a supportive middle class family I probably would not have joined the Peace Corps.

Lastly - modifications to the the Selective Service System are a must. I have both a son and a daughter and I feel both should have to register for Selective Service. To exempt women simply because of their gender is absurd. Both of my children are capable and competent. In a national emergency everyone should be able to contribute.

I hope my thoughts have been helpful. Thank you.

Sheila Martin
High School Social Studies Teacher
Remsen High School
Remsen, NY

1/25/19	I believe that the draft should include women. The defense of our country should be everyone's duty regardless of sex. My son's blood is just as valuable as a woman's.
1/25/19	<p>Conscription is morally equivalent to chattel slavery - pure evil.</p> <p>There is no positive argument for it at all. The United States is vastly over militarized, we would be much better served by reducing the size of the military by at least half, which could easily be done by closing most of the overseas bases and missions. It is time to declare defeat and get out of Afghanistan, all of Africa and the Middle East. There is no military reason for us to pay for bases in Germany and Japan.</p>
1/25/19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes, for turning boys...particularly ones without good fathers...into men. 2. Reinstate the mission...stop punishing people in military for doing their jobs too well in wars...it is designed to be disciplined, but also break-things and kill people, not facilitate social experimentation & welfare programs. 3. Reducing standards so that everyone qualifies for office (character doesn't matter) and military (lowered requirements so that there is no pride of accomplishment/competition). 4. Opposite of #3...raise standards and make it a prize to be sought after and respected. 5. No...people of character, determination, and skill will always show up when the need is true...the rest you're better off not counting on in a fight. 6. No. 7. No, my sons will serve, as I would have (had not Clinton/Schroeder's political machinations discouraged/prevented it) , as most of the men in my family already have & are serving, but if they change things to require it for women, my daughter will NOT...and neither will the other women in our extended military family. Period. There are better and more needed ways for her/them to serve in life as women than usurping men's roles.
1/25/19	<p>I do not support women being forced to register for the draft. I firmly believe that women and men were designed with different strengths and weaknesses, by God, the master creator. To force women to register for the draft is a violation of my daughters' constitutional rights to freedom of religion.</p> <p>Additionally, this policy will force women to leave children without a mother for extended periods of time. As a former military wife, I know firsthand the struggles of raising kids without my husband... and cannot imagine if it had been me that was gone instead. It is my husband and I's belief that a child's place is with its mother, who bore them and gave them life.</p> <p>While we are on the topic, I really don't agree with anyone being forced into military service (male or female). My husband served this country for 9.5 years in the Navy and continues his government service as a DOD employee and willingly does so, but this is not everyone's path and that's ok.</p> <p>If anything, you should ensure that our commander in chief provides military service instead of forcing young men and women to put their life on the line to report to someone who ultimately wouldn't do the same for them.</p>

1/25/19	<p>I SPENT 37 YRS IN THE MILITARY. I AM IN FAVOR OF THE DRAFT WHEN NEEDED HOWEVER I THINK ALL YOUNG MEN SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO SERVE 2 YRS IN SOME FORM OF MILITARY SERVICE. ie ACTIVE SERVICE, NAT"L GUARD, COAST GUARD. IT MAKES MEN OUT OF BOYS. AS FOR REQUIRING WOMEN TO REGISTER FOR THE DRAFT I DON'T THINK THAT THE PROPOSAL SHOULD BE FORGOTTEN OR BARRIED UNDER PILES OF RUBISH NEVER TO BE LOOKED AT AGAIN. WOMEN ARE A VITAL PART OF THE US MILITARY AND AS SUCH SHOULD BE GIVEN THE CHANCE TOO SERVE THEIR COUNTRY IF THEY WANT TOO. NOT SO SURE IF THEY SHOULSD BE ALLOWED TO SERVE ON BIARD SUBMARINES OR SHIPS OF LESS THAN 1000 ENLISTEES. WOMEN ARE A BIG DISTRACTION FOR SOME MEN AND THOSE MEN LOSE THEIR ABILITY TO FUNCTION AT 100% WHEN IN THE PRESENTS OF WOMEN.</p> <p>THANKS FOR YOUR TIME, RICHARD KENT CAROTHERS, MSgt USAF </p>
1/25/19	<p>Public service is severely lacking in our country. I served voluntarily in the USAF for 5 years. Both of my brothers, my dad, and grandfathers served our country with pride. That pride has driven my life and I think I have instilled that in my two young daughters. We all have a profound dedication to our country. Now with two daughters of my own, I firmly believe that they should serve our country in some form and it should be required. I don't believe the military is right for everyone, however, I do think there are definitely other ways for people to give back to our country i.e. AmeriCorps, PeaceCorp, etc.</p> <p>In terms of barriers, I think the lack of knowledge that other programs are out there other than the military is the number one reason why people don't volunteer more. Additionally, funding is a big part!</p> <p>Separately, I do think the selective service should be required for both women and men!</p>
1/25/19	<p>Hi, I'm a 21 yr U.S, Coast Guard vey. Although my career ended prematurely to spine disease I loved my job n the service. It changed my life and me as a woman. I learned to love myself n to be a good leader. I've seen most ladies can't say that. I fell into the military out of necessity but loved it right away. All citizens are better for serving. I believe all political participants should have military service. Civilian people rarely test or expand their own lives outside the box, military people are forced to function and overcome personal fears. You also learn empathy n teamwork. As a country we are lacking most of these properties. Current politicians don't know reality for middle income and disabled people.. All service also instills more maturity. Something a person has to experience on their own, it can't be taught. It appears to me lots of our country's assets are warped right now. My medication is managed by people who don't even know me, everyone in a position of civilian service or authority is crooked n selfish. All of these issues would be improved by mandatory military or civil service. Bring everyone up and improve our country.</p> <p>Thank You</p>

	<p>Lorraine Millican ITC U.S. Coast Guard (Ret)</p>
1/25/19	<p>Women want equal rights, then they can equally serve.</p>
1/25/19	<p>From my stand point, the answer is simple: equality means all are subject to the selective service.</p> <p>As an Infantry airborne/Ranger who served in combat during the Vietnam war, I remain against women serving in any direct combat MOS positions. Yet, the political winds have drive this subject to inclusion. Accordingly, women should be subject to the same laws regarding service in the armed forces. We can not have double standards.</p> <p>Respectfully, Richard Maling Vietnam 68/69 2/2d IN, 1st IN Division</p>
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1/25/19	<p>1.) Looking back over my lifetime, I for one believe that every graduate from High School should serve in either the military or a service organization for at least one year, preferably two. This will save parents the cost of children growing up in college and wasting money.</p> <p>2.) I have no opinion.</p> <p>3.) Ignorance of why they need to serve</p> <p>4.) Make service mandatory, pay a living wage. Three of my Grandchildren have committed to AmeriCorps. Two have served and one more will serve this year. Although they received room and board a little less than a dollar an hour, four or more to a room and \$5.00 a day for food really doesn't cut it. Treat these young people well and they flock to do a year of service.</p> <p>5.) The military draft is a must. Hopefully it will never be required in the future but we must have a way to stand an Army at a moments notice.</p> <p>6.) I'm old, so my opinion of women in the service is contrary to modern times.</p> <p>7.) Service should be mandatory. Military, Civilian, etc. There are many individuals who are not built to fight, it is a cold hard reality. Many want to serve and earn their right to be called an American. It also gives them time to grow up before going to college. In many cases, they may learn that college is not for them.</p>
1/25/19	<p>I'll keep it short and sweet . I'm a former Army infantryman , I would rather not have females in the combat arms for far too many reasons to list here . That being said , now that they are , they shoul be all the way in . If we keep the draft which I think is a vital part of our national security , they should have to register just like the men who they now serve next too in combat arms jobs .</p>
1/25/19	<p>I personally believe time in the service would add to male and female youth's growing and maturity process. Not only benefiting our country but also providing some help with future decisions.</p>
1/25/19	<p>I think that if men are required to register then it should be required of all Americans to do so of both genders. Areas of combat are open to women to serve in so it makes sense that they be required to register also. If all people aren't required to register then the system should be done away with all together. As for mandatory enlistment, I'm sure that is a feasible thing since there are some Americans that are not capable of serving and meeting the demands of the military and how it functions. With the generation of today, most of the young adults would be very reluctant to serve and it may cause more trouble then good to the military.</p> <p>I am a veteran myself and feel that if you are going to keep the Selective Service, that it should be mandatory for everyone, male and female or done away with completely.</p>

1/25/19	<p>I think that if men are required to register then it should be required of all Americans to do so of both genders. Areas of combat are open to women to serve in so it makes sense that they be required to register also. If all people aren't required to register then the system should be done away with all together. As for mandatory enlistment, I'm sure that is a feasible thing since there are some Americans that are not capable of serving and meeting the demands of the military and how it functions. With the generation of today, most of the young adults would be very reluctant to serve and it may cause more trouble then good to the military.</p> <p>I am a veteran myself and feel that if you are going to keep the Selective Service, that it should be mandatory for everyone, male and female or done away with completely.</p>
1/26/19	Hell yes, they want equality and claim they are capable of serving.
1/26/19	<p>I was unaware of your commission until I heard a story on NPR. I am a military veteran and a government contractor. I understand one of the issues you are studying is women and the draft. The answer is absolutely YES. Equal rights means equal responsibilities. And you should suggest this to Congress since lawsuits have been filed and this equal registration will be enforced by the courts. The only reason the Supreme Court gave for exempting women from registration in 1981 was because women were excluded from ground combat. That is no longer the case. Do the right thing before the courts force it. As to the larger issue of universal National service, good luck with that. We are barely one nation anymore and attempting to require universal service will make the Vietnam War protests seem placid.</p>
1/26/19	NO, women should not be required to serve in a draft. That is ludacris.
1/26/19	<p>To the Commissioners: I expect you were chosen because you are disposed to instilling a culture of service in America. Please understand there is no nobility in coerced servitude. Sponsoring such is no less than enslavement. This is intolerable</p> <p>I love my grandchildren and expect they will have al least as much freedom as we have been able to maintain. I will not accept any form of draft.</p> <p>Morality and the survival of a peaceful republic requires abolishing the draft in any form.</p> <p>Do this and disband, you have no choice. Very sincerely, I John Lloyd Cowan III</p>
1/26/19	<p>As a female serving on AD in the USAF, I believe that if there is a selective service draft in place, all able bodied men AND women should be required to sign up. However, if there is an option to remove the draft system, then that would also be feasible. I am personally in favor of all eligible citizens having to serve a minimum of 4 years in public service. Our country does a poor job of instilling pride in the US and by making public service mandatory, I think we would have more contributing members of society.</p>

1/26/19	First of all, having women register for the draft would be a step taken in the direction of greater equality for all Americans. Also there could be another benefit of having 18 year old females take part in the Selective Service program, now all eighteen year olds would have a selective service card and that card could also serve the individual as proof of citizenship and as a work card. If all Americans and legal aliens had a work card or an alternative means of proof of legality to work, the government would be more easily able to find those individuals who either working in our nation without legal documentation and those individuals who are hiring these illegal workers. Finally, the need for a Selective Service system will continue as a means for the government to more easily react to an unforeseen situation which would demand the rapid mobilization of troops or workers.
1/26/19	I personally as a woman would not want to be signed up for a draft. That being said, I am 33 and not required. But, all these transgender who are wanting to serve have had their rights stripped from them serving our country. I say it doesn't matter what gender you associate yourself with, as an American one should be able to serve if willing and wanting to.
1/26/19	i am jsut becoming aware of this commission- and i am 61. however my present diminished physical abilities at this age come with more wisdom and more importantly, more desire through my awareness of the good fortune i have had in my life mostly due to living in this country. I can find just as many things to complain about as the next guy, but we would not be able to do so publicly without the freedoms we were born with and into. should the youth not be aware of the amazing opportunities they have in all aspects of their lives i suggest incentivizing service, certainly not requiring it, as the donor will be much more proud of the former and resentful of the latter. This would bring more productivity and probably more service from others, as the donor would probably promote this. the incentives can come in so many ways, such as a reduction in cont. ed costs, or at least an interest free loan. (THAT"S another subject of which i have been a victim of and surrounded by victims-- student loan debt) Regarding military service, i believe the above suggestion would help for some at all ages. surely there is something someone could do to support their military, especially if they see the results by maybe helping a veteran no longer serving. "sponsoring a veteran"??? Even if the donor does not support the cause, surely they support helping a veteran suffering from wounds - mental or physical. Thank you Robert Riddle
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	<p>mental or physical. Thank you Robert Riddle</p>
1/26/19	<p>count me in. mandatory service should start in jr high. every single person. yet, it should start end there. continue with voluntary service for all ages. I'm a songwriter and record producer. everyone has something to offer. giving is receiving. here is my contact info: marvin etzioni [REDACTED]</p>
1/26/19	<p>Open the aperture wide for what would constitute public service (pick 10 or 12 categories), then incentivize it by offering something like a 3% lifelong federal income tax deduction for those who complete two years of full time public service by age 25. Giving a lengthy period to provide the service (albeit early in life) mitigates against constitutional arguments that it is mandatory.</p>
1/26/19	<p>I have always said it would do so much good for a young person to serve our great country in one way or another and not necessarily military. As the mother of 2 sons, I believe that it would have helped them to grow up. They would learn to think for themselves and make decisions for themselves. Our citizens have become lazy and no longer feel gratitude for the fact that we live in a free country. We need to teach them to honor our flag once again too.</p>
1/26/19	<p>USAF veteran and proud of it. I feel all young folks should be required to serve at least 2 years supporting our country and our flag. From what I see of how kids are being raised today, parenting skills are woefully decreasing or lacking. Military service will teach you Honor, teamwork, leadership, ethics, morals, integrity, personal hygiene, responsibility and respect to name a few. I see the young adults in our society today and am not very hopeful for our future (they are not holding doors for elderly, are very rude in general and don't appear to know the first thing about Americanism, respect, responsibility, morals etc and seem to care even less).</p>

1/26/19	<p>I just stumbled on to your page. I've decided to play less games and read more about my Government. These are dangerous times as our Country is broke because of biased news, poor Democratic education that has taken Constitutional history and law out of the classroom. Few people have the ability to look ahead of themselves or even think of the World as a whole.</p> <p>When I stop and respond to a car accident it's because I know no one else is. One time a dodge pick up hazards came on and he accelerated right off the road into a potato field. I sat with him for about 50 mins after he came out of diabetic shock. Nearly 50 mins before someone else stopped to ask if everyone was ok. A semi on the highway with hazards on, a dodge in the field and his trailer upside down.</p> <p>I stop to help because it's part of being an American. Being an American citizen isn't necessarily a good thing because everyone needs to pitch in to keep our Civil Liberties alive and well.</p> <p>Being an American citizen isn't a bad thing, I feel like someone is trying to teach less intelligent people that being an American is a bad thing, that we are greedy, indigenous people murdering bastards. Brutal war is a part of just about every country's history. Anyways. I choose to help because it's an honor to help a neighbor. My neighbors are not the house next to me. My neighbors are sea to shining sea. I also know that if I fix a broken sidewalk, or pick up litter that I don't have to pay a state employee 50 bucks an hour to do it. Good day</p>
1/26/19	<p>I disagree with women being drafted unless there is an exception for women with children at home. Someone has to be there to take care of the family. If there is an exception then I think it's something that could be passed, but do we really need a draft? Take volunteers first.</p>
1/26/19	<p>I am 16 years old, 17 in march, and I was already thinking about the navy. I should like to give you my opinion to help.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes, serving has value, for me it is giving back and my way of helping. I love this country and want to help any way I can and this is a good way to do it. 2. I believe the ads probably aided in having more people join because many don't think about it until it is brought to their attention. I only thought about it because of mutual friends who have been in service. 3. This is a hard question because everything to do with war can get sticky. People can die or get hurt which you have to know going in. I believe the system is ok how it is including barriers. 4. Maybe a survey that can be easily accessed to your targeted audience which sounds like people with good reasoning skills. 5. I don't believe the draft is necessary but I don't think it is hurting anybody to have it because you never know what can happen and you may need more arms. But with that said if you get plenty of people to join the military there won't be a need to draft. 6. I believe opening up the selective service to girls could benefit. I mean we have learned over the years that girls can do a lot. But at the same time we go through pregnancies and what if that happens and then you are needed. I think it could be a good idea but with some limitations to the girls just in case of a pregnancy.

	7. I don't think that adding more people will hurt at all. If we allow more people like women, there is more of a chance to win with more bodies. I still think the draft should stay for just in case.
1/26/19	I am a retired Coast Guard Warrant Officer after 26 years of active duty...I STRONGLY believe that women should be included in the Selective Service System! It is unfair and [now] at a minimum sexist to exempt them from signing up for Selective Service. If this system continues to be in effect, have women be required to sign up in addition to young men!!!!
1/26/19	I am a Vietnam Veteran serving in MACV in 1970-71. This service has been defining for me. As I grew older, I joined the Civil Air Patrol to preserve a national service tradition I had started in the Vietnam era. I understand, the auxiliary of the USAF does 60% to 80% of 1st AF missions. It has a strong cadet program and about 60,000 members. I read your excellent report, but did not see any mention of the program. It may be my oversight, but, if true, is there a reason for this? It would seem the CAP should be a strong example of effective volunteer national service. Thank you, John Longley, Keno, Oregon, [REDACTED] Please, could I get a response?
1/26/19	I honestly see no reason in this anymore, due to we have military and every day people are signing up for the branches of arm forces. Woman have the choice too. Why do we need a draft for women? Woman not all but a lot have been proven that they won't make it through all the infantry training and that their not emotionally capable. I mean not all women are like this of course but what's the point? I'd love to see a bill that fixes: health, education, make the country better as a whole, bills to help the people and make our country great again. How does a draft bill do that? Please explain to me how this bill makes our country great again? !!!!!
1/26/19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes. As a Navy Veteran, It teaches how to be a better citizen and to understand the wider world. 2. Young people can get a grounding of Americal ideals instead of being radicalized 3. There are no barriers, In fact, after serving opens many doors 4. Just like other nations (including the neutral Swiss), every male should serve and females can serve a supportive role unless they volunteer for combat duty. 5. Yes. 6. All levels of society must serve, not just the middle class and less fortunate. 7. Yes, and it should be included in a path to citizenship for foreigners. No Deferments.

1/26/19	<p>Dear Commissioners:</p> <p>Greetings, and thank you for your work thus far. I believe that we should tie the concept of contributing to our nation's well-being and security with the guarantee of a safety net that provides well-being and security to individuals who serve. I do not mean either a military draft or a universal basic income, but a modified combination of the two. I have sent a proposal on this to my two senators and will send it to you at the info@inspire address.</p> <p>Thanks for considering these ideas.</p> <p>Robert Paul Weiner, [REDACTED]</p>
1/26/19	<p>I am a retired Master Chief Petty Officer that served 30 years in the U.S. Navy and my comment is that there is absolutely no reason women cannot, should not serve in our armed services. In my opinion, women should register for selective service. As far as combat goes, there are plenty of combat support positions that women fill every day--aircraft maintenance for example.</p> <p>V/R</p> <p>Daniel Theriault AFCM USN (Ret)</p>
1/26/19	<p>While I come from a military family and considered Air Force before I was married, I do not support that the draft include women. Having children has changed everything for me, and due to our special bond and responsibilities to our children, I feel the way we can serve best is at home taking care of the house and children. Should a woman volunteer for service, I strongly believe this should be optional and never demanded. What would happen to children when both parents are drafted? Who is going to care for them? God forbid raise them if both parents are killed. In addition, throughout history women have been brutally raped. Why would we want to increase that chance by sending a woman by draft into a war zone were the other soldiers aren't as tolerant and advanced in human rights. Should a woman choose to sign up for draft, I believe that should be her choice-that choice should also be made with all the potential risks fully disclosed.</p>
1/26/19	<p>I feel woman should be required to register, We've lost a lot of good men and women. The draft was designed to "fill the gaps" so our AF stay strong. I say approve it!</p> <p>CWO2, USN Ret.</p>
1/26/19	<p>I feel woman should be required to register, We've lost a lot of good men and women. The draft was designed to "fill the gaps" so our AF stay strong. I say approve it!</p> <p>CWO2, USN Ret.</p>

1/26/19	<p>I believe in today world of equality women should have to register with the selective service as our young men have to today. This will provide an equal starting point for everyone in the event of a national emergency in the event the need arises. The value of service in the armed forces has been diminished in the last 15 to 20 years with the politicization of the armed forces, and with the need to present a great face to the public. While the benefits of service used to stand on their own, today I feel that it mostly is for the benefit of the individual on immediate needs (Pay check and healthcare) vs long term benefits and prestige of Honorable service.</p> <p>The selective service system should also be encouraged to promote national service outside of the armed forces (America Corps, Peace Corp, There should be a service option for the National Parks/ Conservation). I believe that everyone should have a period of national service to help instill an appreciation of America. This today is not seen as something everyone should do, but a fall back if you cannot do or find something else. This can be a period of exploration and discovery for Americas youths while bettering themselves and benefiting the American People. While this may not be a 100% feasible, it should be encourage & incentivized (loan forgiveness, scholarship amounts, and federal hiring preference similar to veterans today).</p> <p>The non-armed national service would be a way for today's youths who cannot physically qualify for military service to gain life experiences that will help them grow. There is a dramatic amount of the population from my experience that has not been outside of a small radius of where they have grown up. The appreciation of being able to see something different than "home" goes a long way into making people better and more rounded. This would potentially provide for more tolerance and understanding of others of different backgrounds, economic situations, and ethnicity.</p> <p>This would provide for more viewing others as all Americans, similarly to how veterans and service members view each other as all Green, Blue, or Grey per their respective branches. This typical view from veterans and service members has be echoed to me a multitude of times and are some of the most tolerant and understand people I know.</p> <p>Looking back on the greatest generation, everyone came together at the same time. This generation provided a backbone of one of the greatest and prosperous times ever. A period of nation service would allow for everyone to have little of this and potentially provide the foundation of a prideful, responsible, conscious and hopefully prosperous America.</p>
1/27/19	<p>Please do not draft women in the Military! This should remain voluntary! Most young Women become mothers at some point! It's not right to expect women to delay having kids or having to leave their kids for extended times! Men have created all the Wars & women have picked up the pieces. If they want to serve & have planned that in their lives, that's great! But to make young women sign up for the draft is outrageous! Continue to make the Military appealing to serve in the areas & branch that they like.</p>
1/27/19	<p>Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? Answered best by our Armed Forces, but likely a draft could not be mobilized effectively in the next war. Are modifications to the selective service system needed? No - Do not add women to the draft. The draft is not a social club. It is meant for war.</p>

1/27/19	I believe the Commission should gather all relevant information from Israel. They have a system that requires all young people to serve, either in the armed forces, or another type of civil service. The reason their entire country is so resilient and disciplined, is because everyone has had that same common experience.
1/27/19	4. The military should not be encouraged. Military "service" is a ploy that preys upon poor children and turns them into state sponsored murderers. Killing will never be acceptable whether the majority sees it as okay or not. Killing for any reason assumes superiority by the killer. Thou shalt not kill. Not not kill unless you really need to or you want to.
1/27/19	Every citizen of this country, male and female, should perform military or a comparable type of service for a minimum of two years in active status or eight years in a part time or reserve status. It prepares those participants to be better contributors to society regardless of the field of employment they chose to endeavor. My military service was invaluable and molded me for a life of success and service. I said then and continue to believe that the elimination of mandatory service to the country was a mistake on a societal level as well as from a military perspective. George Harris [REDACTED]
1/27/19	Reading thru the article, I believe the public need more on education and prospect of been promoted along the way, currently there are enlisted soldiers who hold masters degree and yet , not getting promoted, there are those who have nothing and yet got more promotion prospects.
1/27/19	USMC Infantry vet cpl 0311 If women wanted to join military in combative roles and pushed using "women discrimination" as a tool to get what they wanted well now they should have to register.
1/27/19	I believe that the provisions to implement a universal Draft must be maintained and improved to cover every citizen and Green Card holder between 18 & 35 in order to qualify for Federal, State and some local financial assistance programs, SNAP, WIC etc. No registration, No fiscal assistance. Gender equality requires exactly what it states; equality in all areas regardless of gender. Females must register for the selective service system, as the father of three daughters, they should be afforded the same opportunities, however, it is up to them to compete, complete and perform at the same level of requirements as males, there should be no lowering of standards. Any citizen, Green Card holder and non citizen who receives Federal financial assistance for education should undergo an abbreviated Basic Military Training, service branch immaterial, OR must intern at a Federal Agency for 6 months using the DOD Pay Scale(E4). Those who receive State funding should intern 3-6 months or attend a State ARNG/AIRNG. This proposal would increase the level of ownership and a mental "buy in" after acceptance into the program,however, it must be complete before awarding the funding. Upon completion of any military training, individuals who desires to continue on to serve shall be afforded to in their branch of choice.

	Piquant as these points may seem, I have actually had all three of my daughters read my gender related thoughts specifically and the rest generally, and they agree.
1/27/19	Since our military now allows females in combat occupations, we must now require young women to register for selective service. Equal rights means equal opportunities in everything.
1/27/19	I think it is and has been time to have them Register to serve at any capacity to serve in the military. Especially 11B in the Army. That would front line INFANTRY, even if they cant met the qualification the staff should send them anyway or get them to the minimum qualifications like they do already by reducing what the Female has to do....special treatment for genders.....Since they want to be equal, either lower the Males qualifications to met the females or raise the Females....This is by a Veteran of the Armed forces.....The female in the military are a JOKE.
1/27/19	It's time to retire mandatory service altogether. Our educational system is out of control and forcing those unwilling, and preconditioned to object, into combat environments could produce even more volatile conditions for the people who are there out of principle. Also, with regard to the idea of including women in the draft, one should observe that with liberalized abortion laws we are getting closer to forcing women to get them. Military members are considered government property and we need to protect their humanity, or they're sacrificing everything for nothing.
1/27/19	I voluntarily served. I think at the minimum that all persons are required to register. Since equality was demanded, then it shall be required. I wish we had a mandatory 2-3 year requirement for everyone to serve. This would teach people respect for our country and understand the importance of protecting it. I also believe that whether you serve or not you should be registered and your DNA be taken. This could be used to solve crimes in the future. There also should be a requirement if you are a immigrant, you or your family are required to serve as a way assimilate into loving our great country.
1/27/19	I believe all youth upon reaching their 18th birthday and/or completed high school, be required to serve their country away from their home for 2 years. By way of military service, peace corps, civilian work force supporting infrastructure, medical corp,

	or firefighter. College credits could be applied. This would be a time of personal growth and adjusting to adulthood prior to going out in their own.
1/27/19	I believe that all young able bodied people should be required to serve in some capacity of national service. In doing so they would come to a greater appreciation for this country and what it offers to each of us as citizens. I also believe that if women are now able to serve in all combat roles that they should be required to register for the draft just like the young men are, otherwise it is clear discrimination against men (men's lives are not worth less than women's). Further, in times of no war, those that register should be given the opportunity to serve in other roles to help this nation. Lastly, the lack of Civics education in our schools is appalling. If the young people in our country cannot even tell you how many branches of the government there are (true story) then our schools are failing them and our nation and this must be rectified, because if they are not taught what separates us from the rest of the world then how are they going to take pride in what is uniquely American?
1/28/19	Every Amwrocan should have to serve in some way in their life to appreciate and take pride in the USA. If they do not wiah to do military service then they should have to do some kind of community service. Connect people in the community. Maybe if people continue to service theor community they should get tax deductions after mandatory service. Juat a thought
1/28/19	How come service is still limited to young people? There are many services that older citizens could perform that do not have the same physical requirements as being out in the field. I am 58 years old (never served) but have many skills that could be used in any branch of the military. My guess, there are thousands if not hundreds of thousands of older folks out there who would be thrilled and honored to serve. Just because its always been done this way, doesn't mean it always has to be done this way.
1/28/19	Selective Service / Draft is useless in the US whether or not women are a part of it. If a draft was imposed on the country next week, I believe at least half of the people called up would choose to run away, riot-demonstrate, or otherwise refuse to serve, believing themselves to be far too progressive, anti-war and precious to risk their lives to fight for the country. If you add women to the selective service, the number of available troops will rise, but the same percentage will refuse to serve.

1/28/19	<p>No one wants to serve in the military bc of what they've seen. The government uses people up and they come home the government tosses them aside like trash. Some serve and give their lives others come home to poverty and despair and ultimately take their lives. Ive had friends in college happy people without a choice but to join the ROTC to be able to pay for college. All they want is an education to try to live the American dream. The recruiters sweet talk them, tell them everything there is to gain by joining the military. They get sent overseas thinking theyre doing right by serving. When they come home, if they come home, theyre mentally destroyed. Theyre not the same person as they once were. Theyre not better or stronger or full of pride, as was promised. Theyre broken. Then the government turns its back on these veterans. Left with no health care, no money, no home and no where to turn. Theyre demoralized and desparate. The VA is a joke. The VA pumps them full of pharmaceuticals and crosses their fingers. Veterans are left for dead in the country they gave everything for. The government uses people up and then spits them out and pats themselves on the back for another war "won". Talk to some vets. They will tell you the military is a crapshoot. Its sad. Millennials understand what's happening. These wars are just a way for the people in power to contract money to their buddies at the expense of their constituents lives. The people they swore to protect. And shake eachothers hands with a big smile behind closed doors. Millennials have information via the internet now. They see what the government really does. They arent racing to sign up. Go ahead and allow recruiters to come into the schools. These kids are smarter than that. If they're not smart enough the second they go home and walk through the doors their parents are going to set them straight. No parent is going to allow their child to go off to war to die just to fatten our dispicable leaders pockets. People have realized these wars are fruitless. That our leaders dont care how many lives are lost over nothing. When we had recruiters in schools they just hounded people. Creeping up on young students trying to convince them to sign their lives away. Coming to their homes with information theyvreceived from the school itself. Its disgraceful. In addition, no one wants to serve for this administration. Theyre the actual worst. People know without a shadow of a doubt the govt's only mission is to line their pockets and make friends by handing out contracted work to line their friends pockets too. They feel if they make tax cuts for the rich and buddy up to some billionaires they will owe them after this political run has ended. Meanwhile poverty, addiction, and division has engulfed the entire country while they turn their backs. Help us Americans be progressive and youre numbers will turn around. I have to spit bc im so disgusted with our leaders. Everyone is ready for change.</p>
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1/28/19	<p>I feel that since women are now eligible for all military jobs, including combat, they should have to register with the Selective Service System in the same manner as men are required to. To continue to by law require only men to register strikes me as a clearly discriminatory federal law, and such laws are prohibited by the 14th Amendment to the US Constitution.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>John Leffers</p> <p>Providence, RI</p>
1/28/19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes. The honor and pride of having served a greater cause than oneself. The invaluable experience of learning to work as a member of a team to help people or accomplish a mission. 2. Offer incentives for free higher education and/or vocational schooling. In the event that the government offers free college tuition or free healthcare in the future, then you will need to offer high sign up bonuses. You will need to push the security of a steady, secure job while serving. Offer matching 401K or a path to getting a first home. Offer a quick path to US citizenship. Bottom line is that you have to compete with the civilian market because service to country and patriotism just don't appeal to the younger generations today. 3. Family/friend separation: Today's youth depend on their parents assistance well into their 20's. Multiple deployments: Most people joining the service understand they may have to deploy but the stress or more than one deployment is very difficult on individuals and families. 4. Tax free bonuses. 5. Yes. 100%. It's the insurance policy against world instability and attack against our country. The attack doesn't have to be military. It could be EMP, computers, natural disaster etc. 6. Yes. Females should have to register with the selective service also. Equal means equal. All combat jobs are now open to women. 7. Yes. 1 year full time service for civilian service organizations or 2 years military. Military shouldn't have to be 2 years active. 12- 18 months active and 6 months to 1 year reserve or guard. <p>STOP dual citizenship allowance for the US military.</p>
1/28/19	<p>Hello my name is Matthew. I am a senior at the University of Nevada Reno, studying computer science and engineering. With respect to the information about the selective service in the interim report, I believe that the selective service is an important resource in drastic events and should be kept. However I believe that if men must register with the selective service in order to vote or get a backed student loan or grant, there is no reason that a modern strong independent and empowered woman should have those privileges without also registering for the selective service. Its 2019 and its time that women and men are</p>

	<p>treated equal in the eyes of the draft board. Even if the selective service is retired, in a drastic event that requires dramatic military recruitment, the powers the be can simply enact new legislation at the time when it is needed. Disbanding the selective service now would only add a few days of congressional cat fighting that wouldn't change anything. Thank you and I hope that this message reaches a sane person if there are any left in the country.</p>
1/28/19	<p>Should women be required to serve? If military service is the only option, then the answer is "no;" however, the same answer is true for men. No one - of any gender - should be FORCED to serve in the military. On the other hand, if we offer a variety of service options - medical care, forestry, veterinary, urban development, tutoring, and so forth, in addition to a military option, then mandatory service for ALL Americans would be a great addition to our culture. Certainly, we could even have a system whereby people of any age could offer service. There is no logical reason to limit this program to our most inexperienced part of the population.</p>
1/28/19	<p>Waste of time, resources and money. Close down the whole thing. If needed in the future it wouldn't be that difficult institute a draft .</p>
1/28/19	<p>First, I am a female and believe since women have asked for and received entry into military combat arms branches, then it only stands to reason that females should be required to register for selective service. Unfortunately we females want our cake and eat it too. Service has inherent value. I personally would require two years service of all with the choice of military or Peace Corps. In this day of "MY rights" people are blinded to the privileges and liberty our country has insured for us. We need education not in founding fathers who different groups want to denigrate now, but in every liberty we enjoy, the accomplishments AFFORDED women and minorities in this country, admitting the problems while showing our liberty for individuals of every persuasion to work on the problem. Education in civics yes, taught in a manner to attract the YouTube generations so as to reveal not only the beauty of it but also the failures. What we need and you cannot provide is term limits on senators and congressmen and Supreme Court justices. The more I think the more I realize that we need such an overhaul that I lose hope. And the first overhaul we need is to return to the transcendent law and to God. We blather on about tolerance, yet we are the most intolerant people, for we want to choose whom we tolerate. You will need more than good luck. So how about, may God guide you?</p>
1/28/19	<p>1. Service value is providing young adults the opportunity to exorcise their right and responsibility to serve their country. It also provides them with knowledge of the government and the Constitution of the United States. 5. Absolutely. 6. Women should absolutely required to register for the draft. They have pushed their way into every corner of the military to be equal so they should have to meet all the standards of the men from selective service to physical standards.</p>

1/28/19	<p>I am a female Desert Storm Army veteran. I was very eager to serve my country right out of High School in 1987 at the age of 17. I LOVED being in the military but I was lousy at running and that is what drove me out in 1993. I have encouraged anyone who shows an interest in serving and talked some into it that never thought of that option.</p> <p>Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? I think service gives young people confidence and a great foundation for life. They get to see what life is all about and not be totally unsupervised. It also sets them up for help when they are older.</p> <p>How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? It has gotten more lucrative to enter service because of bonuses and schooling costs. It's all about money for most kids.</p> <p>What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? The only barriers to a healthy, law-abiding person joining are personal ones. But, I think its BS that you charge soldiers for uniforms and gear. A basic amount should be supplied and then it's up to them for upkeep and replacement. Also charging them so much for MRE's, even if they don't eat it!</p> <p>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? As I said above, it's all about money. Perhaps if you offer them a nice, one-time bonus for a short term, they may stay longer?</p> <p>Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? I think so because in times of war, a lot of people won't join.</p> <p>Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Yes. Women need to be required to sign up. If they fit all of the requirements, they should be on call. We are more vicious than men in a fight anyway. LOL!</p> <p>Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? I've thought about this a lot. 2 years is not a lot of time out of someone's life and it really gives someone insight and empathy towards the soldiers still serving. More than 2 years would be too much for someone who didn't chose to be there. BUT none of the mandatory people who choose to leave after that first 2 years should be given veteran rights unless they were in a conflict or were injured.</p>
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1/28/19

Dear Dr. Heck,

I applaud the Commission's work and read the interim report with great interest.

My own project to help America move forward through citizenship and service to community and country - the National Service Ride - dovetails with the Commission's aims. Please consider including it among the supporting initiatives in the next report.

You can learn about the project by watching this short video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rcrSZZnFRhY>). It is based on my book *Travels with Harley - Journeys in Search of Personal and National Identity*. This and many other articles summarize many of its ideas (https://www.huffingtonpost.com/christopher-holshek/identity-and-the-future-of_b_9160536.html).

I am sending you a copy, along with some project brochures and copies of my card. I suggest looking at Chs. 4, 12, and 13 for a deeper discussion of citizenship and service.

In any case, I have some recommendations for the Commission. The first is to consider community service along with military, national, and public service. If the goal of the Commission is to leverage one of our greatest national strengths to help the nation move forward, become more competitive, and bring it together, then service at community level is an even more untapped resource. It is, after all, our communities more than our capital that make us a great country. And when you serve your community, you serve your country.

Second, a national strategic narrative on service that is more inclusive and broad-based to emerge is absolutely vital. I look to democratize and demilitarize service in my presentations by telling people that service does not require a uniform, and say "thank you for your service" to police, fire, first responders, medical professionals, public educators, charity workers, etc. My school events take a value-proposition approach to get kids to sign up for community service learning opportunities (you can download the project briefing at www.nationalserviceride.net).

In addition to a strategic narrative, the Commission should look at ways to bring together the ideas and resources of the many service-oriented organizations through collaboration and coalitions to achieve more wholesale than retail impacts. This also implies a more purposeful role for the vested interest of private sector.

In other words, the Commission's crucial work must be more strategically approached and planned, In fact, its results and recommendations should be included in documents such as the next update of the National Security Strategy.

I am more than willing to serve as an advisor and contributor to Commission and ask you to take that into consideration. I may

	<p>be reached at [REDACTED]. I am in the New York area but can come to D.C. if needed.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration. Please give my regards to Janine Davidson, whom I've known for some years.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>Christopher J. Holshek Colonel, U.S. Army Civil Affairs (Ret.)</p>
1/28/19	<p>Should women choose to volunteer for service if they qualify than take them. I prefer they take roles in safe areas or desk jobs. Should continue to be mandatory fory for males to register. Women are targets in combat particularly because they are female, just my two cents worth.</p>

1/28/19	Should women choose to volunteer for service if they qualify than take them. I prefer they take roles in safe areas or desk jobs. Should continue to be mandatory fory for males to register. Women are targets in combat particularly because they are female, just my two cents worth.
1/28/19	yes to the draft and since WOMEN want to be treated as equals YES TO THEM BEING DRAFTED !!!!!
1/28/19	As a female veteran of the U.S. Navy I completely endorse the idea that all citizens, women and men, should have to register for the draft. Women have proven themselves to be capable and essential members of military units across the decades and in all branches of the military. If we want to do away with the draft, that's another matter. but as long as we have one all citizens should be required to register. I also fully endorse the idea of a mandatory period of public service - not everyone should or can join the military. But what about temporary positions during the summer in our national parks? What about hiring college students as census takers as a period of national service? How about helping deliver meals to seniors or assisting with Head Start or any number of other amazing government programs? Not only would young people have the chance to serve, they might also find themselves on a pathway to public service in the long term. Perhaps you offer them a stipend and student loan forgiveness? Perhaps there's another way. But there are lots of ways we could incorporate public service into our national character.

1/28/19

Commissioners—I believe the messages of this commission are right on track. As a retiree of 12 years active duty (AD) and 16 years reserve/civil service Air Force, I absolutely see value in the product and changes you are evaluating. Specifically:

1. Service does have inherent value to all of society. Not all will be able to serve on AD military, but all could spend at least a year working at the federal or state level, whether in be paid or volunteer. Peace corps, state parks, even something such as a year in volunteer status at a veterans hospital living at home with parents adds character and helps develop citizens, something sorely lacking.
2. While most won't continue public service, that one year of volunteer could be a basis to enter federal/state employment slightly higher on the pay table. One year of service would have huge value to employers getting employees with a year more maturity in "the real world." It also will motivate many to continue service.
3. Barriers might be in specific jobs (ie. disability on AD, but I would have been thrilled to have willing civilian volunteers to help with administrative duties in a military unit), but I would assess the largest barrier is attitude. Just like selective service registration is mandatory, effective advertising would be key to overcoming attitude barriers. And with mandatory volunteerism, people would consider early what their best option is. An additional barrier is cost, but depending on agency and opportunity, "pay" could include food/basic expenses.
4. Expand the options for service—military, federal, peace corps, state, local. Effective oversight of all programs is key, and fraud in completing service should be prosecuted, just like failing to register should be prosecuted. Those that didn't register broke the law, and there should be consequences. Perhaps a failure to register results in no social security or government pension until one year of volunteer/service is completed. Even welfare/unemployment could be tied into this service—to receive benefits provide at least part-time service, even if it's cleaning up trash or serving meals at a shelter. There's nothing wrong with someone that needs help, but let's do more than just pass out freebies.
5. Selective service is still necessary and relevant. And women should be included. This is an insurance policy we need as a nation. In the event of a large national emergency, being ready is critical. While an active draft now isn't relevant or necessary, having a strong bullpen is.
6. The selective service system seems well designed, with the only change needed is the inclusion of ALL Americans.
7. Now more than ever service to our country is valuable and relevant. Too many people in this country are out of touch with reality—service is an excellent way to get all of society reconnected.

Thank you for the opportunity to make input!

Scott A. Snyder, Colonel, USAF (ret)

1/29/19	<p>Sir, Saw your request for information in the VFW Magazine. I wanted to give you my opinion. First, I was drafted in 1970 and spent over 10 years in the US Army. I feel that the youth of today are not interested in service to their country. The school system doesn't impress the value of service and country to the youth of today. I am concerned that we have a loss of a generation of young people. I believe that reinstating the draft would be a good idea. When I was in The Army, I found it to be very good as we got to meet others with interesting views and ideas. I was in service for several years after the draft was stopped. The first thing that I ran into was the lower quality of new personnel. I am sure that over the years the quality has improved. But, the interaction with so many people from many different places add to my experience while in service. My time in service did add to my appreciation of this country and service I was doing. I would wish that experience on others. Thank You Gordon Slaten</p>
1/29/19	<p>Dear Sir; The question I want to answer is number 6: I believe that the selective service system needs some modifications for the system to work. The reason I say this, because when I was 18 I signed up for the Selective Service like I was supposed to do. I was 18 I joined the U.S. Navy. Then I did 1 year in the Navy for my country. But when I went to starting pulling in applications for the state and federal jobs, they kept asking if I signed up for the selective service when I was 18 also it ask me what was my selective service number. That is a problem because I did not keep my selective service number when I join the Navy. The modification I would like to see for the selective service system is that if the young man joined the armed forces of the United States and then goes to do a federal job application, when he answers that he was in the military then he should not have to answer if he signed up for the selective service. Joining the military should be good enough to meet that requirement. Also I think that young ladies from the age 18 and up to 26 should have to sign up for the selective service system. Also if the Democrats wants illegal immigrants to be in America than these illegal immigrants should have to sign up for the selective service system for their new country.</p>

1/29/19	<p>Community Service Punishment or Privilege</p> <p>Should young Americans be required to do community service? The key word in this question is 'required'. By making it required, community service becomes something they must do because it is a rule. Many high schools have made it a requirement to graduate. Are these young people feeling inspired and eager to serve their communities? My response would be no.</p> <p>I have a lifetime of experience performing community service. I served on my student council in high school because I wanted to make a difference for future students. In 2002, I received the President's Lifetime Achievement Award for performing more than 4000 hours of service. But my greatest lessons happened while working as a juvenile diversion officer. I always saw community service as a privilege until I assigned community service as part of a diversion contract for juvenile offenders. It was an eye - opening experience. This is when I began researching the power of community engagement.</p> <p>Before I get into the heart of my message, let me be clear that I believe a community service element in our justice system is necessary. It is a key component to restorative justice, especially when the service project can be directly linked to the crime.</p> <p>A Science Behind Service</p> <p>Let's look at Lawrence Kohlberg's 6 Levels of Moral Development to understand why a child will perform community service.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Avoid Punishment: a juvenile does it to avoid getting a harsher sentence in court 2. Self Interest: a student wants a college scholarship 3. Praise: a student can receive an award for # hours of service 4. It's the Rule: It is a graduation requirement 5. Considerate of Others: a student wants to help others 6. Personal Code of Conduct: student serves because it is who they choose to be. It is their character. <p>More science to consider, is the SEARCH Institute www.search-institute.org</p> <p>The research centers on 40 Developmental Assets. The more assets introduced to a child, the more likely they are to grow up to be a kind, caring, responsible adult. When looking at community service, I believe our focus would be on assets 7-9 under the heading EMPOWERMENT. For a complete list.</p>
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EMPOWERMENT

7. Community values youth -Young person perceives that adults in the community value youth

8. Youth as resources – Young people are given useful roles in the community

9. Service to others- Young person serves in the community one hour or more per week

As I studied these assets, I knew we could build a stronger developmental community by looking at community service with a different perspective. We launched a community youth council. The youth council was made up of youth volunteers from each of the high schools in our county. The students organized dances and concerts to provide drugfree and alcohol-free events. They also participated in community cleanup projects. Many times, they were working side-by-side with the diversion youth. I lost count of the number of times a diversion participant asked “why are the council members working because they were not in trouble?”. The conversations that took place provided a learning opportunity for our youth. Many diversion participants continued to perform community service after their contracts were complete. They began to see community service not as a punishment but rather a privilege.

Another program that changed this mindset, was implementing the Presidents Volunteer Service Award Program. We encouraged all children K-12 to perform community service and document their hours. The first year, we introduced the program, we recognized about 120 students for their service efforts. I believe recognition or praise (Level 3 of Kohlberg’s study) is pivotal to helping young people feel inspired and eager to serve. The only negative aspect to this program, was the cost. (\$5.00 per certificate)

In 2015, I launched Volunteer Nebraska, Inc. a nonprofit organization whose mission is to empower youth to make a difference in their community. We provide a recognition program for all youth preschool to high school, for their service participation. The only expense to the community is the printing of the certificates. Based on the data from the SEARCH Institute, we also encourage preschool age children to perform simple service projects. In 2017, I entered the Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility to teach success strategies and encouraged them to rethink community service. To learn more about Volunteer Nebraska, visit www.volunteernebraska.org.

In closing, let’s consider the requirement to be all communities host a recognition program as their way of saying thank you to the youth for their service. This is one way to help our children feel valued by the adults in the community.

Next, let’s see more youth councils and youth advisory boards established. One example – A

	<p>board of directors is serving your community library. Add a youth advisory board to shadow the adults. This allows our young people to see how the organization functions, gives them a voice in the community and exercises their leadership skills. This could be implemented with city councils and county boards, nonprofits, churches, schools etc.</p> <p>My final suggestion is to encourage all juveniles held in detention facilities to use their talents to make the world a better place. The Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility has, in place, an inmate council. This gives youth a voice to help create more effective programming.</p> <p>I believe the sooner we begin empowering our youth to make a difference in their community, it becomes instinctual. It becomes who they are; young people who are inspired and eager to serve their community.</p> <p>Respectfully, Mary Ingram Volunteer Nebraska ████████████████████ Grand Island, Nebraska 68801 ████████████████████ www.volunteernebraska.org</p>
1/29/19	<p>In the economics of service, even the top 1% are paid enough to beat inflation and the rising cost of living, what is your plan(s) to fix this? Cecil Henry, First Communal Financial Service</p>

1/29/19	There is no excuse to have a gender split! Even if the pool of eligible females is less than the number of males, they should fill a minimum of 50% of all available positions. There are more females to male ratio in the US and has been so. Why is that not reflected in the census of positions in the US Military?! This must be addressed before any consideration of dropping the Selective Service! I speak to many on the subject and will continue to do so. David E. Harper
1/29/19	I am a veteran of the U.S. Army and VFW member. I am a 64 year old female. Over my lifetime, I have developed the following opinions. I think women and men should register in Selective Service. If our country becomes imperiled by an external enemy, a draft will be required. All of us should serve our country in some capacity for a combined period equaling two years. No one can be exempt including for ingrown toe nails. Some way can be found for a person to contribute. It could be military, Americorp or the like, volunteer work for the greater good. My mind was expanded by serving my country. Young people who are in legal trouble should be allowed a choice of service in lieu of jail. Felons should be allowed to serve and have their felony expunged for honorable duty. I know there would be those who would object to being forced to do service, so many different ways to serve have to be included. I think a huge, elongated, public campaign must be launched to make everyone aware of ways to serve. Civic and history lessons in school are imperative. All people must be allowed to serve. Immigrants should be given expedited citizenship for service. Illegal aliens should be given a chance to serve before being deported with honorable service giving them expedited citizenship. Recruiters should be allowed on all campuses but parents should be present with those under 18 being recruited.
1/29/19	The draft is still necessary if for anything to remind our young adults that there is a military. Tougher restrictions should be placed on those who don't. In this day of equality, all Americans 18 to 25 should register for the draft. For those non-Americans here legally, citizenship should be granted after a honorable discharge from a full enlistment
1/29/19	Scrap the draft. If Americans are needed to protect our country, they'll be there. Remember how many signed up after 9/11.
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1/29/19	Scrap the draft. If Americans are needed to protect our country, they'll be there. Remember how many signed up after 9/11.
1/29/19	Today is not yesterday and women feel they are capable of doing the same things as men. I think doing away with the draft was one of the worst things that was done. We now have a generation of people who feel they are owed having done nothing to contribute. If men are required to register then so should women. Serving gives one a feeling of being thankful for living in a free country. Freedom isn't free!
1/29/19	I served four year in the Marine Corps and 4 years in the Army. I also have a son in the Air Force. However, I pray he does not make it a creer and I absolutely will not support my daughter in joining the military. I am not willing to lose my child in a pointless war with no clear purpose or exit streategy. When I deployed to Iraq, I was told that we were fighting for liberty and freedom etc. They must not have been that threatened because a few years later we left Iraq and allowed ISIS to move in. And

	you want me to encourage my son or daughter to serve? I think not. Furthermore, the military retirement (if you are even allowed to make it to retirement under the up or out standard) can not compete with the retirement in the public sector.
1/29/19	Serving in both the military and as a DoD civilian, I feel that being a part of the military has brought a form of pride. As a DoD civilian I am able to continue to serve as I help those that are in the military to focus on their primary duties. The way to increase participation in the military would be educating what the military has to offer. The barriers in participation are, requirements for the military, the amount of time it takes to get hired in some departments in the federal government, having to be concerned about government shutdowns every year and at sometimes several times a year, the stigma that people who work for the federal government are not efficient or good at their job. I feel the draft is still a necessary component of the U.S. national security. The moment that it is revoked will be the time where we will need it the most. It is better to have it and not need it than need it and not have it. I feel that females should be added to the selective service system. Today's society is about gender neutrality and treating each gender the same; therefore, I say women need to enter the selective system. I do feel that a short period of time serving in some form or fashion is necessary for them to understand American Values and what it really means to be an American. Once you have served and know what freedoms you give up for others makes you understand and appreciate that freedom. There are too many that want the benefits that America has to offer but yet fight against the very hand that feeds them.
1/29/19	I have always believed that our children should have Civics thought as a requirement to graduate from HS. They need to know how our government works and they need to be contributors not just consumers. They need to learn to serve their communities observing and participating in local service activities. That's what we do in Texas.
1/29/19	My name is Barrett Tillema, I am 21 years old. I tried unsuccessfully to join the US Army. But I was denied because of a hand tattoo, and also a felony when I was 14. I'd love to serve but I am ineligible. Relaxed tattoo rules like the Navy and waivers for those who made bad choices at a young age will expand the available candidates for military service, and may allow me to finally be able to serve my country.

1/29/19	<p>1) Not really. The majority of this country and its media treat service members like murderers and civil servants like leeches. Signing up for service means being ripped away from your family and treated like garbage by your countrymen for a salary that places you in the lower middle class at best.</p> <p>2) MONEY. If the pay is commensurate with the level of work that you expect of young Americans it becomes easier for people to accept the numerous, nearly infinite number of disadvantages that come along with a service job. If you want young people to leave behind their homes and/or risk their lives, you must pay them enough that they can actually retire once they leave service. Working in service of government is grueling, thankless, soul-sucking and often requires relocation. If you're going to ask so much of your employees, a generous salary helps tremendously in offsetting the costs of service. It also helps to fire underperforming employees, but the government continues to retain poor management and poor leaders because they won't pay enough to actually attract quality management/leaders.</p> <p>3) Money. Why would a young person work in military, national, or public service when they could make three times as much money and sacrifice less? The government expects people to rush for government jobs but they are low-tier jobs in modern society. The government offers low pay, low flexibility, poor work-life balance and thinks that they will attract quality talent? Insane.</p> <p>4) The U.S. wants individuals with critical skills to serve the nation. Maybe pay those folks like the skilled individuals they are, rather than paying them half of what they could be making in the private sector. Skilled individuals require education and training. When people have training and education, they expect to be compensated appropriately. The government does not compensate these individuals appropriately, and exclaims that there exists a skills gap. The skills gap would disappear if there was a financial incentive for people to enter public service. I saw a recruitment commercial for a military branch offering a \$40,000.00 signing bonus. Does the government really believe that is a significant sum? That is, for most 'skilled individuals,' less than a single year's worth of pay for a lifetime of commitment. What kind of talent do you expect you'll attract? The dregs of society who have nothing to lose? Is that who should be working in public service?</p> <p>5) Only if you want riots, revolts, cowards, and defectors. Forcing people to fight for something they don't believe in is a disaster. Does Vietnam ring a bell?</p> <p>6) It should be abolished and replaced with a system that provides resources to interested individuals.</p> <p>7) See answer five. It is not valuable to force people into military service. It is completely infeasible and a foolish idea. Young Americans would take to the streets and demand the firings of anyone stupid enough to suggest the idea</p>
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1/29/19	<p>1. It would if the American government still stood for freedom and liberty and justice for all and wasn't filled with all this socialistic propaganda.</p> <p>2. Commercials are effective on certain platforms but most of us avoid them with adblockers and other different programs. Maybe having more propaganda showing the honor and dedication to true American value's put into Movie theater's and possible doing more military parades in cities honoring the people that serve.</p> <p>3. I was told I couldn't join till I payed off traffic tickets but at the time I had no job so I had no way of paying off my tickets and I also have a neck tattoo that shows in a t-shirt (not a collared shirt) and I was told that I would have to have it removed which isn't happening.</p> <p>4. Decrease the amount of money that is wasted on redistribution programs and allowing people to leech off the system and funnel that money into higher wages or better benefits for the military. Although hands down I'm not for the government running businesses so if its not an essential service stop wasting money on it and let those industries be privatized.</p> <p>5. Possibly under direct assault of our nation but the information we get about war is so clouded in secrecy we have no intrinsic value in going to join a war that doesn't directly effect our national security. Our country is participating in wars and battles around the world and people aren't educated on why. We only get snippets by the media that is extremely biased and lacking definition and the updates on these conflicts are few and far between so a lot of people don't even realize we are still at war right now.</p> <p>6. No because women should not be in combat. And if they can meet the same standards as men I still don't think its a good idea because it distracts men from what is actually necessary to do in a combat situation. This asinine idea that equality = equity is destroying any honor people can find in serving.</p> <p>7. A mandatory service is a horrible idea because I fear the direction this country is going and I would not want to be forced into military service for a socialistic government.</p>
1/29/19	<p>I am a Veteran! I was conscripted. Institute mandatory service for all, just like Israel does. It makes better citizens of us. Fewer people would be on welfare or in jail with skills and attitudes learned in National Service. It helps people "grow up". Institute Junior ROTC in public schools.</p>
1/29/19	<p>I was rejected because I had childhood asthma and flat feet. I am 27 now and this was several years ago. This is absolutely bizarre because I wanted to be an intelligence analyst, and I could demonstrate fluency in a critical language. The military lost a great candidate. Mandatory service is critical. The final 2 years of high school should be compulsory military training and civic education, and then students should have the option to join at 18 for vocational training, active service, public agencies, etc. Women should also be included in Selective Service. Stop the social engineering in the military, and stop prosecuting our boys for doing their jobs. This is why a lot of traditional candidates eschew military service. We should not be the world's police force, and the military is not a social science experiment. Also, stop recruiting foreigners--this should be common sense, but we continue to welcome those with foreign allegiances into our military and intelligence agencies.</p>

1/29/19	My son at 19 attempted to join airforce. He was a straight A student all his schooling and a mathematician. His 4 years in high school required him to use calculators. The test for airforce did not so he ran out of time and failed the math section. Never looked back.
1/29/19	i have one son (19) currently serving in the Airforce and is a technical school in Biloxi. I have a 2nd son who is 17 who wants to serve in the military but has road blocks due to mild prescription for adhd. add and adhd affect millions of youth today. he wants to enroll in military immediately upon graduation but may be prevented because of taking medication for adhd.
2/4/19	Are you aware of and looking at the following stated requirement to volunteer ? The farm bill—which reauthorizes the foods stamp program for five years—would have been a prime opportunity for Congress to enhance work requirements. Under current law, certain work-capable adults must work 20 or more hours per week, participate in a supervised job search or training, or volunteer in their communities in order to receive food stamps.

2/4/19	<p>Subj: Benefits of Military Service – A Positive Endorsement for Mandatory Service for All</p> <p><!--[if !supportLists]-->1- <!--[endif]--> Service most definitely has inherent value: To belong to something greater than one's self fulfills a very basic human need for affirmation, purpose, and inclusion. To know that one's contribution through their work or volunteerism has real, tangible, and measureable results is a motivating factor to improve our world around us. Everyone wants to be acknowledged for their efforts, and the military is certainly a great model for this through their advancement system and the recognition (awards) process. I think sometimes the prior and sadly, current, National Guard soldiers, Navy sailors, Marines, Army, and Air Force Veterans who are offing themselves at 22 a day after they leave service is a strong measure of how valuable they feel while serving; and contrary to that, how unimportant they feel after leaving the military – right now people exit without any civilian 'credentialing' and the E5 making \$33 annually with additional financial earned benefits of housing and basic subsistence, in addition to possible Hostile Fire Pay/Combat Zone Tax Exclusion or Special Duty Assignment Pay (Recruiters), comes home and often get offered jobs for \$9.00 hourly in this area. None of their training, work, and military education is merited on scale with the college degree or professional 'credentialing' obtained through a profit school. The same E5 has the same financial obligations he had as while on active duty and yet because of the competitive education market, and despite the fabulous Show Me Hero program Missouri has extended to five years from date of honorable discharge, this unexpected fall to poverty in many cases wrecks another kind of havoc on top of their deployment experience.</p> <p><!--[if !supportLists]-->2- <!--[endif]-->How to increase desire for more Americans to serve? The obvious change would be to increase the cost/risk benefit for the service member and their families. Pay more money to where E4 and below are NOT qualifying for SNAP. Bring back the enlistment bonus! Stop spending so much with Federal Contractors for weapons and spend more on the most valuable asset of our military, HUMAN capital.</p> <p><!--[if !supportLists]-->3- <!--[endif]-->Do as some of our sister nations like Israel and France do and MODIFY the selective service to install mandatory two</p>
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years of service to our country through public or military. With the rules and regulations to govern the exceptions and disqualifiers like ‘bone spurs’ when necessary. Use our military advocates like the Fleet Reserve Association and the Military Officers Association of America as allies in the change.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->4- <!--[endif]-->USE THE OBVIOUS HEALTHCARE AND POVERTY MITIGATION option as an incentive. Just think, if every high school graduate, male and female, were required to serve in the military directly following high school they would have full and unfettered access to preventive care! No organization picketing the Navy Medical clinics and screaming filthy obscenities to clients just going in to obtain birth control, cancer screenings, and actual medical professional counseling. And in boot camp and prior to every deployment, there is a mandatory training on unplanned pregnancy prevention/ disease prevention and sexual assault prevention! The current Navy Motto for Sexual Wellness is “Your Love. Your Health. Our Help.” <https://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmcphc/healthpromotion/reproductive-sexual-health/Pages/reproductive-and-sexualhealth.aspx> Of course the military would also have to do its part to find a better system to allow young parents to enlist in our military vice stamping out their opportunity to serve. It would decrease the current local 90% rate of single parent families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and the other national averages of this unfortunate dynamic. Having preventive care would also increase the productivity of our young citizens who can more easily pursue careers & education opportunities for themselves without the heavy burden of parenthood, and eventually give back to their communities and afford their future offspring without government assistance. When I joined in 1990 to today, the military healthcare team does not ask you “IF, or WITH WHOM, you are having sex, or hand out this ridiculous notion of “Abstinence Only” to combat an anthropological certainty, they only ask “What protection do you use? Here is what we have available to you.” The Navy has been issuing condoms since WWI after it was discovered that STD’s were killing more men than battle: “ Experience in World War I led military and naval authorities, when ultimate participation by the United States in the present war seemed likely, to take new steps for protection of their personnel against venereal disease. During the first World

War, 6,804,816 man-days were lost to the United States Army because of venereal disease. New cases exceeded by 1,000 the number of battle casualties. More men were treated for gonorrhea and syphilis than for gun and shell wounds. Estimates of the Veterans Administration placed the cost of treatment up to June 30, 1940, at \$82,043,500. “

[https://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/document.php?](https://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/document.php?id=cqresrre1943010900)

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<!--[if !supportLists]-->5- <!--[endif]-->Mandatory service would include mandatory healthcare! Henceforth this access would alleviate a huge amount of unintended pregnancies and disease while reducing the overall instances of legal abortions in our country. This proven 62% to 78% decrease in abortion rates (see Washington University study:

<https://medicine.wustl.edu/news/access-to-free-birth-control-reduces-abortion-rates/>) is a fact and measurable improvement which can be used to rally the current administrations’ extremist evangelicals and other religiously zealous members of “the base” to help spin the positive on mandatory service for all.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->6- <!--[endif]-->Compensation – again, defer overfunding of federal contractors to the financial wellbeing of your greatest assets – people. Increase the housing and education opportunities on bases.


<!--[if !supportLists]-->7- <!--[endif]-->Draft: We could eventually weed out the need for draft by engaging the entire country in mandatory service, those who thrive, will stay, and those who do not, they will still have more opportunities to build meaningful careers afterwards – having met fellow countrymen and women from all walks of life and understanding that different does not mean bad!

<!--[if !supportLists]-->8- <!--[endif]-->Modifications to the Selective Service System? I say it is long overdue for a modification. Once and if ever the Equal Rights Amendment is ratified, then women should absolutely be required to sign up just as their male counterparts must do now. Currently we Women Veterans and those females who are currently serving our country are not even protected as Equal to a man under the law! (www.era.com)

<!--[if !supportLists]-->9- <!--[endif]-->I feel that mandatory service can be a vital conduit toward a more unified nation. Right now the polarization is at an alltime

high due to inflammatory rhetoric coming out of many sources, driving a wedge into a free society, pushing one religion over another, seeking to divert, divide, and recently destroy people instead of helping them, regional divisions based on geographic location and/or income status. Service would be valuable for both our country and the individuals. Think of the many bridges and knowledge gaps that can be crossed and closed when people from all over our nation are put together to work toward a common goal!? What's possible? Equal pay for one thing; independence, education, training, travel, learning a wealth of different regional and national cultures, teaching and celebrating diversity via the DEOMI principles, full spectrum healthcare with no political impediments on preventative health and wellness measures for women and men, disease and poverty prevention! Most importantly, scooping up our young people before they have a chance to fail; giving them a kickstart to an outstanding and life changing experience, superior training and future career opportunities.

Sincerely,
Ms. Sabrina S. Bonnette
U.S. Navy Chief,
(RET)
& Mother of
Two Daughters

2/4/19	<p>As a veteran, I think I am qualified to have a reasoned approach to this issue. I served under a Captain, in Germany, many years ago. His opinion was that the draft needed to be continued, as it brought in not so willing recruits, who, although not so willing, did their jobs and did them well. And, the constant turnover kept the military from becoming an elite Officer class and subservient Enlisted class. Turnover in the officer and enlisted groups allowed wrongdoing to be noticed and stopped before it could become serious. I agreed with his opinion and still do.</p> <p>As to women registering for the draft, as women have all other rights, then they should also have the same obligations (not necessarily combat roles, unless desired).</p> <p>I do think the draft should be re-instituted, with military service being one of multiple choices of national service. All citizens should be invested in our country. As it is now, the tiny percentage of families involved with military service allows the majority to be oblivious to the issues and hardships.</p> <p>Al Rogat  USAREUR, HQ, 540th Engr. Grp, 1966-1967</p>
2/4/19	<p>From: Steve Saulka To: NCoS Info Subject: Women registering for the draft. Date: Wednesday, January 23, 2019 5:10:34 PM Don't you even dare.</p>

2/4/19

From: Shawn Halman

To: NCoS Info

Subject: My Thoughts to share regarding Military Draft Registry for the commission

Date: Wednesday, January 23, 2019 3:12:00 PM

I'd like to share my personal thoughts to the commission regarding discussion on the Military Draft Registry Discussion

i'm 33 years old 7 years over the Special Selective Service age limit to be drafted (i hope i pronounced the SSS Correctly if not my Apologies) i'm a proud late grandson of a grandparent who proudly served in WWII Received two purple hearts and a Bronze Star and even Met Personally The Late General Douglas MacCarthur. since WWII Times have changed dramatically i do agree there should be a Mandatory Draft Registering Requirement in this time and age incase There is a need for one if a War Should start including if necessary women. however there needs to be a certain screening and documentation process to protect those who have special needs


i myself was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder in 1998. i take medication daily for my autism and while i'm on the High End of autism with Aspergers Syndrome. i'm concerned for the Other Special Needs Children and Adults who may not be screened properly if a Draft Should Take Place. i believe there should be special exemptions for those with Autism and special needs from registering for the draft. if they have been diagnosed they should have a required letter from a Licensed Psychiatrist or testing facility (IE College, University or Hospital) where they have been tested and diagnosed as a special needs child. and it should be documented by both the high school they attend and Special Selective services that this person is exempted from registering for the draft.

when i was in high school i was contacted by an Army recruiter who said because of my autism medication that i cannot qualify for joining the Military. thankfully i do good deeds for my Local Branch of the United States Army every year during the holiday season and Back to School Season at my job. we do a Program Called Operation Homefront where we ask customers at the checkouts if they would be interested in donating/Purchasing (either a back to school item in the summer which could be pencils, calculators, crayons, pencil holders, or a toy during the holidays where their parents are serving overseas in the military) i take it seriously being a family member with a late grandfather in the Army i consider it my service to the country. during our holiday season my highest total of toys donated From customers was 2718 Toys set back in 2017. Last year was smaller but i was still able to have sent toys from Customers 2152 Toys and Clothing to local children while their parents proudly serve

overseas). i'm grateful and proud to help out with this cause every year.
to summarize, i do believe that Woman are capable of joining the Military and definitely Men too such as registering for the draft. but There needs to be a system in place for those with Special Needs and Autism like myself that should be exempt from having to register for the draft that are not able to function like other normal adults including those that cant speak. like i said i may not have been able to serve my country in a uniform, like my late grandfather but i feel like in a good way i'm serving my country by helping those military families in need by doing what i love to do during those two seasons per year in Operation Homefront. thank you for your time i'd like my name to remain anonymous but i definitely would be honored to have this letter be public to the commission.

2/4/19	<p>I served in VISTA (1969-70) in rural East Texas after graduating from college. Previously I had been a VISTA Associate (summer of 1968) in the inner city of Seattle.</p> <p>Both experiences were challenging and transformative. Having grown up in a homogenous white middle class suburb in the SF Bay Area, I learned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> —about different cultures and races...how to have deep relationships across superficial divides —about myself: my values, dreams, limits and potential —that there is, indeed “more happiness in giving than receiving,” (Acts 20:35) <p>My work with disadvantaged youth and adults (in various projects: low income, incarcerated, developmentally delayed) clarified my direction into a 40-year career as a clinical psychologist.</p> <p>I believe I made some small differences in the lives of some others. The big benefits were for me. VISTA was a profoundly valuable rite of passage.</p>
2/4/19	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing to receive more information on the public hearing on 2/21. My Partner is interested in attending. Can you let me know how that works and where it is being held?</p> <p>Thank you in advance,</p> <p>Amanda Guevara Excella / Senior Executive Assistant [REDACTED] / @excellaco / excella.com</p>

2/4/19	<p>Please forward to Mr. Kent Abernathy:</p> <p>Dear Sir,</p> <p>I am organizing the American Freedom Train 2.0 project that will see a 24 car long steam locomotive powered celebration/display train tour the 48 contiguous states (2022-2026) to help celebrate our 250th. birthday and say thank you to our veterans.</p> <p>I organized a very similar train to help us celebrate our 200th. birthday. Please see www.freedomtrain.org for details on that project.</p> <p>One of the main themes throughout the 10 display cars of 2.0 will be to encourage the estimated 15 million Americans (10 million students, 5 million adults) who visit the train in person (plus the estimated 40 million students who will participate via computer) will be to motivate them to do make a personal effort to make their community/country a better place.</p> <p>I would appreciate a call at your convenience so we can discuss how we might work together going forward.</p> <p>Thank you, Ross Rowland, Founder & CEO American Freedom Train Foundation, Inc. [REDACTED]</p>
2/4/19	<p>I cannot say for other ways to serve, but I firmly believe all graduating high schoolers should be required to do public service. This generation of young people by and large don't know anything about history, politics, economics or science. Most could not be counted on to defend our country in any way.</p> <p>I come from a very poor family. I have never been able to raise myself or my children out of poverty. However, I have an I.Q. of 134. Two of my 3 children are also quite bright, and unable to rise out of poverty. It's a sin to let good minds go to waste.</p> <p>Perhaps public service could offer bright, poor, young adults a way up and out while serving our country.</p> <p>Jami Murdoch</p>

2/4/19	<p>Dear Commissioners:</p> <p>Thank you for the good work you have done thus far. I hope to attend one of your public meetings the next time I am in Washington.</p> <p>Public Service is a subject I have been working on for several years, sharing ideas with friends and neighbors, and sending letters to my senators. I must be doing something right, because some have viewed my ideas as too conservative, while others have viewed them as too liberal. So I hope you will look carefully at the attached proposal.</p> <p>Thank you very much.</p> <p>Rob Weiner </p>
2/4/19	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am a sophomore in high school and I was looking at your website after to listening to you on the Michael Smerconish show. I live in Cambridge MA and am wondering if you have any opportunities to get involved in the Cambridge area?</p> <p>Thank you Cece Garvey</p>

2/4/19	<p>I am a former US Air Force munitions officer who served in the Vietnam conflict. I also received a draft notice, just days before entering the Air Force in April 1967. Most of my college friends escaped military service during the Vietnam war because we attended a Pennsylvania State Teachers College whose graduates who went into teaching jobs were deferred from service. Others in my age group escaped service by fleeing to Canada or feigning injury or illness. Those with money or connections escaped service by joining the military reserve units which, usually, did not serve in Vietnam.</p> <p>As I have inferred above, the biggest problem with the military draft system at that time was it unfairness. Those with connections, perpetual student or employment deferments or phony injuries or illnesses did not get drafted. I am afraid that no matter what system you devise, the same thing will happen. There will always be those who will find a way out. Unless, it is a true UNIVERSAL form of service. Call it a draft or mandatory service requirement, or whatever, but EVERYONE MUST BE INCLUDED. Men, women, transgenders, homosexuals, mothers, fathers, disabled who can walk or work productively from a wheel chair, even those with bone spurs; EVERYONE. When the country goes to war it is incumbent upon EVERYONE to stand up and bear arms!</p> <p>Just don't start a conscription unless you need the people and all are called to duty. Otherwise, don't do it at all.</p> <p>Robert G Hand Irwin, PA</p>
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2/4/19	<p>Members of the Commission,</p> <p>As a 33 year Veteran of the USMC (Enlisted) and USN (Officer) and current President and Endorser for the Associated Gospel Churches, I humbly and respectfully submit the attachment for your serious consideration. The attachment is included in the Mandated Policies of the Associated Gospel Churches (https://www.agcchaplaincy.com/mandatedpolicies).</p> <p>The question ought never to be "can she", but rather "should she!" Your deliberations will have serious moral consequence for our Nation. It is immoral to erase the distinctions that God has placed in His creation of Man and Woman. I pray that you will consider these issues wisely.</p> <p>We are gravely concerned that Women will be required to register for the SSA, and ultimately be drafted into service (against their Biblical beliefs). At a minimum, a category for "Conscientious Objection" should be established for those women who believe it is immoral for them to fight their Nation's wars.</p> <p>Respectfully, Chaplain Steve Brown President/Endorser The Associated Gospel Churches - The AGC Enabling Local Church Missional Access into Restricted Institutions for over 75 years! www.agcchaplaincy.com Office: 864-268-8707 For in Him we live, and move, and have our being;... (Acts 17:28a)</p>
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2/4/19	<p>Dear Commissioners and Staff:</p> <p>Your efforts were recently mentioned in VFW publications and a VFW Post officer mentioned I might share some thoughts and materials with you (I'm a VFW Life Member and Vietnam veteran).</p> <p>I am attaching a document I helped develop while co-managing a discussion project of the Interactivity Foundation on national security policies. The panelists in that project (16 individuals, including 11 veterans with a combined service of over 90 years in every conflict from Korea to the current era) did indeed consider national service options. That conversation resulted in a "Possibility D-- Promote Citizen Involvement". If the Commission would find it useful I could provide hard copies for distribution to commission members. I would also be happy to share my impressions of how those conversations developed and took shape on the issue of national service.</p> <p>Sincerely, Dennis Boyer</p> <p>-- Dennis Boyer, JD, MPA Fellow Interactivity Foundation [REDACTED] www.interactivityfoundation.org</p>
2/4/19	<p>Forcing women to register for the draft is an exceedingly dumb idea, cooked up in Washington DC for "equality".</p> <p>"Alternative Service" was a real joke during the Vietnam War. Doesn't ANYBODY in Washington remember that?</p> <p>If you are a Congressman, it is great way to be voted out of office.</p> <p>Please DO NOT wasted taxpayer money on promoting this idea.</p>

2/4/19	<p>Dear Commission, Please consider the attached article which I had published in the October 2018 issue of the Marine Corps Gazette. Of course, my views do not necessarily represent the views of the Commandant or the Corps. Thank you, Mike Strobl</p>
2/4/19	<p>Hello, Please restart the Draft for both men and women and also for the confused ones who aren't sure which one there are. I was drafted in '69 and I'm very thankful now that I was able to serve. It was a great experience and the VA benefits are a great help. Kids these days need to serve. Thanks. Tony</p>
2/4/19	<p>Yes. I support keeping contingency military draft. Yes, I support all young people, including females should register for draft. I believe in equality. Milton E Simmons Deborah M. Simmons</p>

2/4/19

Dear Dr Davidson,

My apology for my weak English(second language).

In 1988,my MBA dissertation address the concept a voluntary national service (community, civil and military service) for Namibia and South Africa.

What a great surprise when I saw you on the CNN program, only 30 years since my dissertation.

In short, the national service concept should be a honor and the proposal was based on:

1. A very strict selection of voluntary men and women for a national service (12 to 24 months) that will include service in all government departments (central, regional, local levels and in health, education, postal service, military, police.etc).
2. This “elite service men and women” will receive not only training and other value added skills etc during their service, but also a certain tax benefit for say three or five years when they start working after studies etc.
3. The parents of this “elite service men and woman” if being placed at local hospital or post office etc, will also get a tax benefit for the accommodation of these service members etc.
4. Here in Namibia we have nearly a 45 % unemployment rate and I preach but the implementation of a voluntary national service seems never to be realized! Very sad!!
5. I wish you all the best and will highly appreciate any newsletter or information on the implementation of your program.

Your sincerely,

Col(Ret) Annemarie van der Riet

Eros, Windhoek.

2/4/19	<p>From: ITAI INTRATER To: NCoS Info Subject: Comment Date: Thursday, January 24, 2019 3:14:13 AM Hello Commission,</p> <p>I read through the interim report that was just released and it reminded me of one of my assignments in college. I just want to submit the idea that I had for my Political Science class, "Seven Pathways to Citizenship".</p> <p>Essay #3 – Alternative Service</p> <p>Almost any person in the United States would claim that they are great citizens. Though, one aspect of citizenship that most lack is service. One way to serve the country is through military service. However, the country does not need so many soldiers and many people would rather not participate in war. This leads to a need for an alternate service that would provide the experience of military life in order for citizens to be truly great.</p> <p>There would be two services that people could choose from, the military service and the alternative service. The military service would be the true military force tasked with protecting the United States as well as protecting the United States interests overseas.</p> <p>The alternative service would be tasked with community service. Projects such as maintaining roads and bridges and planting trees and maintaining local and national parks. Participants may also contribute to education programs whether formal or informal. Formal programs could include help in school and informal programs could be leadership positions in sports programs and youth organizations such as the Boys and Girls scouts. The alternative service would create a capacity for economic empowerment when the service men and women contribute and benefit from the growth process of the community. The entire country will benefit from the focus of the alternative service as it shapes and rebuilds the country from the ground up.</p> <p>The alternative service would be organized in a structure similar to the military. As William James in <i>The Moral Equivalent of War</i> states, “the military ideals of hardihood and discipline would be wrought into the growing fibre of the people” (1291). The participants would train similarly to the military; however, they would not participate in military conflicts. These training exercises would be similar to the ones that the military uses today. The training exercises would compel citizens to work together and being discipline enough so that the team works well.</p> <p>The service would inculcate the Army values. Through service, all citizens would exemplify a</p>
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sense of loyalty by being able to truly understand what it takes to be an American soldier. Without an alternative service, most American youth do not have a sense of civic duty. Duty to help society function better. Most tend to think in terms of their contribution for society through participating in the economy by buying and selling goods. The alternative service would teach a responsibility of duty for the betterment of society as a community. After graduating from college and sometimes high school, many new adults are thrust into the bustling world and are told that, "everyone is in it for themselves". This is perhaps because everyone has different experiences, there is no common experience. The alternate service would provide citizens with an experience that instills selflessness, honor, respect, integrity, and personal courage.

All native born United States citizens would be required to enlist either in the military or the alternative service. Exceptions for enlistment include physical and mental disabilities that, as decided by a doctor, makes the citizen unfit to serve and American citizens that live in foreign countries for a significant period of their lives with proper reasoning for not serving. An example of this is attending college in their country of residence. The length of service would be one year.

The alternative service is not only a conscription, it is also an alternative path. The alternative service would be designed for those who would like to continue serving in the community. As some service will be mandatory for all citizens, it will teach citizens to be leaders in their communities and in the private sector of the economy.

An alternative service would provide a course for citizens of the United States of America to be exemplary. War is not a necessity for all the citizens to come together under one cause. The patriotism of being a part of something that teaches the skills and values of the military will suffice.

Thank you for your time,

Itai Intrater



2/4/19	<p>Hello,</p> <p>While I do agree that 2 year public service would benefit civic responsibility and education for citizens, I vehemently disagree that a draft would be beneficial and would further create a larger divide in our nation, greater than that which was experienced during the Vietnam War. Educating citizens about public service and providing job pathways for careers after service is what would citizens want. Most do not care about the various wars & military quagmires our military leadership have involved the US in, and the loss of trillions of dollars to fund these efforts which have not benefited the American people in any way, and has angered and frustrated folks in ways that leadership refuses to address. Additionally, the travesty that is the VA and the abhorrent handling of veterans at every level make current service extremely unappealing as it shows that once service ends citizens are disposable and will not receive the fair and decent treatment they are entitled to; showing the indifference their government feels and has for ordinary citizens.</p> <p>Thank you, Jeordan Hill</p>
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2/4/19	<p>Having sat with my college buddies waiting for our numbers to be called, I know personally what it means to face the draft. I was ready to go, but my number was high and the war ended before the draft reached my number. In Pennsylvania and like many other states, we have in our Constitution a State Militia. In Pennsylvania's Constitution it covers all males to age 65. However, with the inclusion of the Equal Rights Amendment to the State Constitution, women have by this amendment become part of the State Militia/State Defense Force. I have yet to hear or read that any male or female in Pennsylvania has complained that they should not be included in this force. Nor for that matter, I have not read or heard of any males that are included in the US reserve militia between the ages of 17 and 45 and former regular component veterans under the age of 64, complaining of their inclusion in this force because they are US citizens.</p> <p>What I find unfair is that male US citizens that do not register for the draft can be denied government employment, student loans and other benefits or rights that are not denied to women. Either women should be included in the draft or these disabilities for males should be removed. In addition, with the large number of legal and illegal aliens living in the US, many of which are draft age, they should be included in any mandatory draft registration. And, if US female citizens are required to register, resident alien males and females should also be included. Legal and illegal aliens 18 years of age until age 45 or maybe even older, should be given a reasonable time to register after entering any US territory and if they fail to do so, be denied visa renewals, future green cards and citizenship until they register as well as other benefits provided to citizens. Once registered, they should remain on the draft list the same number of years that an individual is on the list if they had registered at age 18.</p> <p>Dennis Garland</p>
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2/4/19	<p>Greetings;</p> <p>I believe that the provisions to implement a universal Draft must be maintained and improved to cover every citizen and Green Card holder between 18 & 35 in order to qualify for Federal, State and some local financial assistance programs, SNAP, WIC etc. No registration, No fiscal assistance.</p> <p>Gender equality requires exactly what it states; equality in all areas regardless of gender. Females must register for the selective service system, as the father of three daughters, they should be afforded the same opportunities, however, it is up to them to compete, complete and perform at the same level of requirements as males, there should be no lowering of standards.</p> <p>Any citizen, Green Card holder and non citizen who receives Federal financial assistance for education should undergo an abbreviated Basic Military Training, service branch immaterial, OR must intern at a Federal Agency for 6 months using the DOD Pay Scale(E4). Those who receive State funding should intern 3-6 months or attend a State ARNG/AIRNG. This proposal would increase the level of ownership and a mental “buy in” after acceptance into the program,however, it must be complete before awarding the funding. Upon completion of any military training, individuals who desires to continue on to serve shall be afforded to in their branch of choice.</p> <p>Piquant as these points may seem, I have actually had all three of my daughters read my gender related thoughts specifically and the rest generally, and they agree.</p> <p>Feel free to reach out to me should you have any questions.</p> <p>John F Downey LTC, US Army(Ret)</p>
2/4/19	<p>Please find attached a link to an op/ed that I had published in the NY Daily News on January 14, 2019 in support of a national service requirement for all Americans. I am continuing my efforts in support of this initiative and look forward to the National Commission's updates, actions and final report. Thank you very much.</p> <p>https://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/ny-oped-how-to-unite-america-really-20190110-story.html</p>

2/4/19

National Commission Members,

I would like to address the question in the subject line of this email. I found your website and want to add my comments.

I believe that ALL Americans, male and female, should be required to serve in some way, shape or form, whether that is through military service or a form of public service. There are those in our society that have the mentality that it's not necessary to serve outside of themselves.

I am not naive about the ways of our government and the events that has occurred during my lifetime. However, despite our troubles, we as an American society should have a mandatory service requirement, i.e. of at least two years, starting at age 18 or upon high school graduation, similar to other countries around the world. There are foreigners that enter our borders every day because they are seeking better opportunities. Those of us born and raised in the U.S. should not take our citizenship for granted. We should be proud of our birthright and serve to protect those birthrights.

A mandatory military or public service requirement is necessary, but there are those who would not see it as valuable. I do not think that it's feasible only because of how our government is structured and how there seems to be more arguments about policy than there is action in implementing policy. Therefore, in a perfect world, mandatory service requirements would be considered necessary, valuable, and feasible.

By the way, to put my comments in further perspective, my background is that of a U.S. born citizen. I can trace my U.S. lineage as far back as 1792. I am a black woman, with over 26 years of military service. I continue to serve now as a government civilian contractor. I am neither a Republican or a Democrat. I agree with whatever policies, laws, and regulations that better serve the public as a whole... great ideas are not party-specific.

Respectfully,

A Proud U.S. Born Citizen

2/4/19	<p>Hello my name is Benjamin Wilson and I was reading over the latest information on the report from this commission and I personally believe that every American should serve provided they are not physically or psychologically hindered from doing so.</p> <p>My personal belief aside, I thought to share an idea that could be used by this commission going forward. my experience comes from serving over ten years with the young professional group known as Rotaract or the JR Rotary.</p> <p>One of the most promising events we put on is called Op Knocks short for Opportunity Knocks. The goal is simple. We find local colleges and other areas like a chamber of commerce and attempt to recruit young people late teens early twenties to sign up and state the following;</p> <p>name email desired line of work major if applicable and other items in that same vein.</p> <p>We then send these lists to our local Rotary clubs and they match one of their members to mentor the young person for the evening event. We hope that will turn into a job shadowing, internship or even a full time position in the field they are interested in.</p> <p>While the elderly in this country may not all have a list of their former or even current occupations, I see no reason an email couldn't be sent to interested parties requesting that information and allowing them to mentor younger generations.</p> <p>The greatest loss for this nation is the loss of untapped potential of learning from the knowledge well that is our senior citizens.</p> <p>I do hope that these thoughts help in some manner to create a system in which young people can learn and become the molded future leaders we hope they will be.</p> <p>I hope you have a good day and look forward to hearing back soon.</p> <p>Sincerely, Benjamin R. Wilson</p>
2/4/19	<p>Why in the world would you force women into the draft? I don't want to hear about equal rights. It is a horrible idea. Let people choose if they want to serve!</p>
2/4/19	<p>yes, women should be given the opportunity to serve when called upon via the draft but, should be given the option not to.</p>

2/4/19	To Whom It May Concern: My wife and I believe that women should be required to register for the military draft when they turn 18. Terry E. Courtwright, LtCol, USAF (Retired)
2/4/19	I believe including women in the selective service is an excellent idea! I believe it will open many eyes and make people realize how very fortunate we are in the USA. If women choose combat they should be included knowing full well the dangers. In summary, yes women should be registering for the selective service. Good idea about the Peace Corp and other under-privileged areas here in the USA. Thank you. Gloria Romero

2/4/19	<p>Does service have inherent value? Yes. If so, what is it? Service to something beyond yourself is a life changing moment when you realize the world doesn't revolve around your needs.</p> <p>How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? It starts in our schools. I teach high school and college kids. They want to make America better but most teachers, counselors, or parents, that touch them before I meet them ever tells them how. Education institutions from K-12 and all thru college must make education about ways to serve part of the curriculum. In every class, every day I give an example of organizations where students can serve to affect the issues we discussed. They get it immediately, some change their majors and others ask where I suggest they volunteer. If we never tell them where they can serve...their parents won't, because they never learned either. The ignorance about how to serve will only get worse. This doesn't need to be expensive, just simple and straightforward. Arm every educator with a website listing all the ways they can discuss service routes based on their course subject.</p> <p>What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? Can't find ways to serve of course. But worse yet is the hiring or selection process. We must simplify and speed up the process and make it easier to fire people that don't deserve to be in service organizations (especially government positions). Slow hiring drives off lots of great applicants. Poor job performance by colleagues and bosses drives great people away from service once they get in.</p> <p>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? Target them for hiring and selection. Get recruiters out of the office and on the road going where the people are. Hold more internships and summer seminars that bring the target audience to the organizations. (Paid, so the can afford to come)</p> <p>Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? Yes as a contingency only. The draft would ruin the best Army to ever serve humanity if we forced people to serve in anything less than a National emergency.</p> <p>Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Yes all women should sign up too. They can get deferments to raise children or for other existing deferments that already exist for men, but they must feel the call to serve and understand why their children should register. Especially now that combat positions are open to women. Equal means equal sacrifice, not just equal opportunities.</p> <p>Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? Necessary, no. Valuable, yes. Feasible, no. Too expensive to require it, we don't have</p>
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enough paid things for people to do. Making a list of crucial service positions and offering education rewards for those who fill them might be cost feasible. Asking businesses to preference hire people who serve in crucial service jobs is very feasible. And they know they get a better employee. Nothing we do in this change to the service requirements should be expensive or it will not be sustainable. A few solid, inexpensive and simple victories will open the door for more changes down the road. A large expensive program will ensure failure no matter how successful it is.

Sent from my iPad

Very Respectfully,

Jason

2/4/19	<p>YES!!!!</p> <p>To not include women in the draft overlooks a huge asset that would play a vital role in the defense of our country! Why men in America continue to treat women in America like second class citizens is ridiculous. In previous eras - like the Stone Age and the Bronze Age - where physical size and strength was the primary warrior attribute, a man's greater strength and size made sense to just recruit men and exclude women.</p> <p>That was then. This is now. Now we need greater brain power far more than we need greater back power, and including women - given that women in America tend to be a far more educated population in the world of women - presents a huge strategic and tactical advantage that the US would be utterly stupid not to take advantage of. And now, in the modern era where we, as a culture, have come to respect that women can be capable physically as well as mentally, we have an even greater asset for national defense.</p> <p>So, bottom line - YES!!!!</p> <p>The better question is, why have you taken so long to arrive at this decision?</p> <p>Who's running the show there?</p> <p>Neanderthals??</p>
2/4/19	<p>As long as they can meet the physical requirements for the job and want to serve it would be in our best interest to have someone who wants to be there doing their job.I was in Vietnam in 1968 and 1969 and saw a lot of men who did not want to be there ,who became very disruptive.I saw and experienced women who were very helpfull to the Viet Cong.</p> <p>John Spence</p>

2/4/19

I am responding to a brief article in the January, 2019 VFW magazine "Offer Your Input On Women And the Draft." By way of background I am a 72 year old veteran, having served in the Air Force during the Vietnam war. Since returning home in December, 1972 I've spent a lifetime reflecting on the nature of war, the need for national defense and the role a draft should or should not have. The war in Vietnam was futile, a classic example of misguided goals and ambitions by the national leadership. The draft and the notion of serving as a grunt in a jungle war in far off southeast Asia pervaded the lives of millions of America's young men for the better part of a decade. For those who didn't go to college after graduating high school, being drafted was a very real possibility. For those of us who went to college, being drafted after graduation was a very real possibility. I graduated college in June, 1968 and received a draft notice several months later. The "rules" at that point required you to report for induction into the Army or Marine Corps within 30 days. You were allowed to voluntarily join one of the other military services within that 30 day window if you chose to do so. The trade-off was serving 2 years as a draftee or agreeing to serving 3 or 4 years in another branch of the service. I opted for 4 years in the Air Force.

The draft was the primary reason the national leadership wound down the war in Vietnam in the early to mid 1970's. Sending poor and middle class young men to that war was politically unsustainable. For that very reason I am in favor of a national draft to include both men and women. It would act as a safety valve blunting the arm chair warriors in Washington from pursuing future futile wars that really have no national benefit. (Like Vietnam.) I think it should be part of a national service to the country requirement which everyone, with few exceptions must serve 2 years either in the military or some other acceptable national service option. Unlike the fiasco the draft was during the Vietnam period, deferments should be strictly limited to true medical limitations. Men. women, teachers, clergy, students, i.e. everyone who enjoys the benefits of a free America should contribute 2 years.

Yes, women should be subject to national service, including the military draft.

Thank you for allowing me to comment.

Jim Doty

Nottingham, Maryland

2/4/19	<p>Hello, You're welcome. And just to make things easier on everyone when the draft starts we can put the confused ones who aren't sure if they are male or female in their own squad, platoon, company, battalion and on up so they all be together and won't be able to we are picking on them. Please let me know what can do to help get the draft started again. Best Regards, Tony</p>
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2/4/19	<p>First of all, as a citizen who does his best to keep up with matters of national interest, I am astounded that the interim report just released is the first I've heard of this undertaking--especially since the subject has long been of deep personal interest to me. Your request for comments has expired? Why did I never even know about it?</p> <p>I have long believed that there should be universal service required of all young Americans, at least for twelve months, preferably for eighteen or twenty-four. There would be no exclusions for handicaps or any of the other reasons people "avoid the draft"--the service should provide work for everyone, regardless of his or her ability. Cooperation and shared problem-solving should be the core activities of all work in national service. Members of the national service "corps"--or whatever you want to call it--should work and live together. Contact with families should be allowed but limited. In cases where the absence of a service member causes hardship for a family, that hardship should be adequately addressed by compensatory programs--perhaps by the assistance of other service members as well as monetary support. The ideal time for national service is beginning at age eighteen or on graduation from high school.</p> <p>To address your given questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? Yes. The values of cooperation, interdependence, patriotism, and generosity. 2. How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? Desire would not be necessary if service were mandatory and universal. 3. What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? Legislation is needed. 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? Universal national service. 5. Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? Military service would be a component of universal national service. With sufficient incentives, it could probably remain voluntary within the framework of mandatory universal service. 6. Are modifications to the selective service system needed? It should be replaced. 7. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? Yes. <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. I would like to know whether my comments here</p>
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will have any bearing on the outcome.
Thomas McNamee

2/4/19	<p>As a Navy veteran of the Cuban Missile Crisis in the 60's please see the attached file for my comments on the draft questions.</p> <p>Respectfully Submitted, Paul T. LeClair ██████████ Bangor, Maine ██████████ ██</p>
2/4/19	<p>I was inspired to read the report produced by the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service. This approach to engaging our American youth into service is a policy that will be welcomed by millions of Americans. Your policy outlines FAIR and EQUAL participation for all Americans to give back to their community and country by requiring mandatory service in either the US Military or National/Public American Government Service organizations, along with a requirement for CIVIC Education which has been sorely lacking in America's educational system. Specific Points outlined in your report I am particularly in favor of.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All able body Americans would be required to serve a specific time in the Military or National/Public Service. No exceptions other than those physically or mentally incapable. Conscience objectors, or any religious grounds, should not be exempt. This would be a Civic duty all Americans, Men and Women, should be required to fulfill. 2. Women should be required to register for the Selection Service Program and be available during times of national emergency. This would further promote Women as an equal gender. 3. Provide a living stipend for those participating in National Service, similar to those serving in the Military. 4. Require an approved and strictly enforced Civic Education into the Elementary, Middle School and High School curriculum. 5. Provide a method to advertise and promote information to inform these service opportunities to all youth. This mandatory service requirement would allow each person to choose their own way to give back to our nation. <p>Thank you for creating such a worthwhile program. You have my full support.</p> <p>Ron Spurgeon Church of the Brethren Fort Wayne, IN ██████████</p>

2/19/19	As I mentioned to you I served for 4 years on the Va. Commission for National and Community Service (2004-2008). I don't know if I could assist you - But all you have to is ask! Respectfully, Charlie Jarstone
2/19/19	1. Make Public Service a college graduation requirement & credit source. 2) Maintain/Improve military & military benefits. 3) Make civic service eligible for military benefits exchange, commissary programs. 4) Also make civic service retirees eligible for same benefits as military benefits.
2/19/19	mandatory registration for women. Tap into effective volunteer organizations and replicate what they do well. Serve + gain job training via internship for a year after high school.
2/19/19	Outstanding! Appreciate what you do please consider speaking at the Rotary International Convention in Hawaii in summer 2020. If interested, please contact me [REDACTED]
2/19/19	Petition to Congress initiated on Care2.com by Julie Mastrine, April 29, 2016 25,497 signatories as of April 27, 2018. We the undersigned urge you to vote NO on the National Defense Authorization Act's amendment that would force women to sign up for the Selective Service, and to introduce legislation that would end the draft for both sexes. While it is unfair and sexist that only men must register for the draft -- women should be allowed to serve in combat roles just as men are -- being forced to go to war is immoral no matter your sex. While forcing women to register for the draft may make things equal, bodily autonomy should be taken into account and military service should be based on choice. Our bodies are not communal property, and whether you're male or female, citizens should NEVER be compelled to fight in a war they may disagree with. Many people say forcing everyone to register for the draft will cause Americans to think twice about going to war. But, as writer Lucy Steigerwald points out, remember what happened during the Vietnam war: anger over the draft helped to end the war only AFTER 60,000 Americans and 2 million Vietnamese died. "You don't stop the runaway truck of U.S. foreign policy by throwing a man in front of it, and you definitely don't stop it by throwing a man and a woman, just to make things equal," Steigerwald writes. Please vote NO on this amendment to the NDAA, and introduce legislation ending the draft for both sexes. Thank you.
2/19/19	Dear Dr. Heck, Reference my comment posts electronically on January 28, here is a copy of my book, "Travels with Harley - Journeys in Search of Personal and National Identity." As mentioned, I think you will find the discussions in Chs 4, 12, and 13 of most interest. I would very much like to open a dialogue with the Commission to explore how the National Service Ride may contribute to the Commission's outstanding work. You can learn more about this initiative to help American move forward through citizenship to community and country at www.nationalserviceride.net . In particular, as my comments noted, I would be prepared to help look at integrating community service into the scope of the Commission's analysis, fostering a national strategic narrative on service, coordinating the rich array of service-oriented organization and platforms to engender greater wholesale impact, and to leverage the private sector. Please give my regards to Dr. Janine Davidson, whom I have known for some years on mutual matters of national security and civil-military relations and is an excellent choice to help head up this vital national project. Thank you very much for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you soon. Sincerely, Christopher J. Holshek.

2/19/19	<p>Dear Chairman Heck, I was unaware of your commission until I watched your group's recent presentation on C-SPAN. At first blush, I think your mission is to tell Congress how to better whistle past the graveyard of failed nations. The all-volunteer force (AVF) is a failure, and we can no longer ignore it because we can no longer raise an army, or, God forbid, sustain it in combat. Talk about aid and comfort to an enemy! Anyway, I wrote about this in 2006, and enclose a copy of what was published in Military Review, "The Professional Journal of the U.S Army." As you can imagine, I had numbers of professionals wishing to throw me off a bridge, with others in agreement. A much abridged version became lead in a Viki Wagner, Greenhaven Press, high school civics textbook on the military draft. However, regrettably, our schools no longer teach civics! Since you are asking for ideas as to how to move forward, I suggest a first step of going back. My essay details the dreams, theories, and the misonceptions of how we got into the mess we are in. I also suggest a single viable solution. The National Guards won't like it, but love of country leads. I hope you don't mind me copying Representative Scott Perry (PA - 10). He and I soldiered together, and he knows this is my fight. Sincerely, Walter L. Stewart, Major General (retired) Army National Guard of the US.</p>
2/19/19	<p>Everyone has been called and gifted by God. Called in the sense that God has given each of us a task or tasks to do within His Kingdom. Gifted in the sense that God has given each of us the necessary gift or gifts in order to do the assigned task or tasks. Thus all have been called and gifted. Age, economic status, position, and other factors have no bearing on this. God says come and we respond by going and doing. Most people think that it is the pastors job to do the work of God's Kingdom. I disagree. All of us are responsible for doing he work of God's Kingdom. What is our Lord calling you to do for His Kingdom? How will you respond? As American citizens, we have important rights and responsibilities. We need to do both. When we do this, a strong nation rises. Robert H. Wright, Jr.</p>

2/19/19

Dear National Commission on Public Service, 1/31/19

I whole heartedly support your goals and aspirations, but I have a couple of points of view I wanted to share with you.

The first is that I don't think that you go far enough. I am not an accomplished word smith, but I honestly don't think that we need a feel-good campaign to get people to take an interest and put some effort in keeping this country in good shape. In the simplest of terms everyone needs to deal with the care and maintenance of their lives, why should their country be any different?

We should return to Universal Conscription, and that is what it needs to be, Universal. I have yet to speak to anyone who is not willing to listen to the idea if it could be implemented fairly and properly. All seem to agree that it might be a method to start to tie our country back together again. To return our country to some reasonable place where all of us are more willing to tolerate others if we are all pulling in the same direction of trying to make our country a better place.

If you are LeBron James, you are going in, if you are Mitt Romney's son, you are going in, if you are in a wheel chair, you are going in, if you have three babies, you are going in, if you just got out of jail, you are going in. Everyone goes, with very few exceptions; there will be allowances to adjust the timing of your service, but everyone before some cut off age serves.

Once explained properly it is hard to see how anyone who has any regard for this country or concerns about our future would be opposed to it. Most people live a little bit of this obligation, but it mostly local. Being in the PTA, helping at the food bank, coaching a youth sport. It is done every day in every location, we want to do our part. Someone just needs to ask more of us. I am sure that structured properly it is the one sure way to pull this country out of its fracturing nature.

I think that you would be surprised at the level of support UC might garner. The key is always "Universal", rich, white kids go too. For those that have conscientious objections I would like to point out that when we did have a draft, people with centuries long documented objections such as Mennonites, routinely committed to serve two years of public services such as working in a hospital. I have always been amazed at how many folks feel that not having served in the military was an experience that they are sorry they missed and feel that UC would be good for their kids and the nation. There are no good rational arguments against it because at the end of any debate the question always comes back to "why shouldn't every citizen have some sort of public service obligation? There are no free riders anywhere in the universe. Beyond philosophical terms though the net saving to the public sector and growth and development of the private sector will provide an ongoing stimulus program for decades.

In my mind the closing arguments for UC are:

- If the political parties are against it, the average citizen, who now does the serving, will look at both

chambers and conclude that they think that they are good enough to rule us, but too good to serve with us.

- Living in this country is a privilege and everyone I have ever talked to ascribes to the notion that some sort of service to the country is reasonable. We need to stop thinking of the military as the only location for valuable public service. The entire public space can be served by universal conscription: TSA, Border Patrol, National Parks, National Highway System, hospitals, schools and on and on. The active branches of the military: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard should be joined by the Border Patrol in being able to have first choice of each year's candidates and draft them for service. There could be a deferred service provision. Perhaps a draftee for the Marines would like to get his degree in Computer Science or play football first and then serve with them. If they agree, this person would go to school, on the GI bill, join ROTC and then the Marines upon graduation or completion of their professional career. This reverse pipeline would be greatly beneficial to all parties. The draftee would get their education and then move directly into a challenging real-world job in their chosen field. Upon completing their service, they then move into the private sector twice as qualified as they would have been in the school to work route. The other side of this is that with many getting deferred service there will be a new crop of skilled and experienced, slightly older individuals entering the military every year bringing their improved skills and knowledge with them. This also means that the nation's best and brightest will always be as exposed to war as the rest of us. Undrafted conscripts will be given a myriad of options to choose from in addition to joining any of the active duty military.

- UC creates a much stronger nation, and this would be more feared and respected in the world than the addition of any high tech and expensive weaponry. With everyone having to serve in some fashion, and all are available for call to active military duty if necessary, it makes the strongest possible statement to the rest of the world about how we will protect our interests in the future. Because of the nature of universal conscription, we will all have skin in the game in the future because some person of your family will probably be serving, no matter what your age. That means if we are upset enough to want to come and kick your ass, you need to understand that we are all behind the effort, not 50-50 (with 2% engaged) as in the past several wars. The other positive side of that is that it is much less likely we will engage in wars as political tools rather than as life defending measures. A strong and united country is much scarier and more formidable, than all the nuclear weapons that we have that everyone knows that we will never use. This will also mean that politicians who feel that war is the answer for everything, international duct tape if you will, they will know that their family and friends are now just as exposed to dying for their beliefs as your family is.

- It is clear, that for most Americans now, where you start is where you will finish in life, UC will reset the starting line for everyone at the beginning of their productive years. Those that have all the advantages will have some delays but mostly beneficial effects on their life outcomes. Those that don't have all the advantages will be taken into environments where they will have time and the opportunity to catch up and stay caught up to where they should be in 21st century America.
- It is the road to Universal Education Benefits. Everyone serves; everyone is entitled to the GI (DNS) Education Benefits. If you don't use them, they just get credited to your Social Security Account for use during later parts of your life if you want to use them for some educational or improvement need, or they just continue to accrue and become part of your retirement payouts. The assumption being that if you didn't use them for education it is likely that you earned less money in your life and thus paid in less and will consequently need more assistance in retirement. A more secure retirement through Social Security is now accessible to all.
- It is the road to Universal Health Care. Everyone serves, everyone is part of the VA, the VA is dismantled, and other people sort out how to best adjust the health care market and generate savings in the hundreds of billions.
- There is approx 2 - 3 million new 18-year-old people in the US each year and with an active duty military already absorbing 700,000 people under 25 there is not an enormous pool of people to work with and they can be easily absorbed in the nation's service infrastructure. For many of the services that the govt supplies it evolves into a permanent, entrenched labor force that can continue to extract ever higher costs for the same services. The majority of union members are now govt employees and the spillover effect of these unions into other parts of the economy is small. I believe that much of what our govt does can be done by the available pool of 18 to 32 years old that will come into the DNS. If we can train an 18 yr old to be capable of going into combat I am sure that we can train other young people to inspect bags at the airport, inspect cargo containers, do border patrol work, protect our parks, and whatever else we need. These are all things that all of us need, we should just take care of them ourselves and cut out the middle man. There is no shortage of areas of our public life that we can't use more manpower. Schools, parks, roads, beaches, forests, hospitals and on and on. The military will go back to making their own food, doing their own maintenance, cutting their own grass. We don't need to have outside, expensive labor for every govt chore; we should be smart enough to get the work done and at the same time get valuable job and life skill training done for those that need it so they can build better lives for themselves. I know that each group that will be displaced will have their facts and figures why they should continue to stay on as they are, but they can't. Let's not forget all of this will take time to implement and much of the displacement of workers that will come will be through attrition. Also, since we will now have

universal health care many will leave for better jobs on the outside since they won't have to sacrifice those benefits. Governments have to get more for what we pay, and an entrenched employee force is not a way out of our fiscal problems. We as a citizenry need to solve the problem in an ongoing and permanent manner.

- Everyone will have to pass through a boot camp the same as is standard for the army. Here everyone will have to meet minimum standards for several areas before being able to move onto further training and assignment. Some of these standards will be physical others will be more functional such as basic money management and minimal technology proficiency and most importantly everyone that can will have to stay until they pass the minimum learning skills tests and have at the very least a GED if possible. This alone will make many drop outs stay in school which has its own useful effects. Everyone will start their adult hood with training in basic hygiene and public health. They will also have basic first aid skills. Those that can, will have at the very least a GED and an introduction into how large organizations and small groups of committed people work, what is expected at work. An intensive life skills training course that lasts for at least two years for those that need it, and perhaps tedium for those that don't. If we are going to lessen the cost to all of society for those that don't or can't work as hard as the rest of us, we have to give everyone the necessary skills and understandings to be able to be contributing members. We have to lift everyone into the boat and give them an oar even if it is a small one.

o I would like to restate the meaning of the above paragraph in cruder, but more realistic terms. There are a lot of dumb ass people in this country and they then have dumb ass children and there is no mechanism to help these folks get and be better. Nobody wants to be a failure, live on welfare, not be smart, not be able to take care of your family properly. But for many folks there is simply no road map and no possible way of following the map if they find it. UC could be the force that breaks that cycle for a lot of our less fortunate citizens.

- Everyone will start will a clear understanding of how to get and stay physically fit and because of their continuing obligations to a ready reserve they will be required to stay physically fit after being discharged from the DNS or US Military. A fitter, healthier population is the only way to get ahead of the health care train wreck, and this will start the nation firmly down that path.
- By design, the passing through the military or DNS will make everyone smarter and better prepared to move into the future we are creating for ourselves. Think of it as more of a national finishing school. Everyone will have a certain level of skills and knowledge that should make everyone more employable. I would expect that we would see a minimum growth of at least 1% in GDP once the first waves of the DNS discharges start hitting the streets since that will now be a million much

better prepared healthier and smarter citizens than the million before them. Because of the ability to give everyone the same physicals and collect the same health data on everyone we will begin to develop the kind of data base that will allow future medical entrepreneurs the raw materials to root out new and useful information to make and keep our society healthier and our costs lower going forward.

- The collection of DNA for every entering member will allow for a number of advantages as long as we deal with the appropriate privacy concerns. But those should be small since your potential health cannot be held against you for insurance or work. Science will be able to take advantage of all this data to move towards a health care system of prevention and genetic interventions rather than repair and replace or treat and die.
- The age window for UC will disrupt the cycle where young men fall into crime and young women into unintended motherhood. By gathering up large numbers of these unfortunate ones at anyone time it will reduce the total number of folks that can be recruited into crime at anyone time and hopefully will give the returning ones the skills and tools necessary to not need to turn to crime. Having children before joining the DNS won't stop you from having to serve. Let's find ways to give people a chance to have better lives, it is cheaper than just expecting them to do it and then having to pay for the damages anyway.
- If we can keep an additional 100,000 people from going into a life of crime over the 10 years the avoided cost of imprisonment alone will save taxpayers over \$ 10 billion a year and turn those individuals into productive citizens paying their way with as much as another \$ 5 billion in taxes. If you factor in the increased economic benefit of all these folks being in the economy, it probably generates a \$ 100 billion swing to the positive side freeing up that money to fund the things like health care and pensions
- Our society is now mostly completely segregated based on class and in many ways, neighborhood. We need to have a compelling reason to meet others that are also citizens and now we have one.
- For the vast majority of those entering DNS it will be their first time away from home and into a world of new experiences. I believe that the value of NS for many young will come for those just leaving high school and with no clear ideas of what they want to do or how to do it. Perhaps many will get experiences there that will help them form ideas about what they want to do and set forth on much more productive lives filled with more satisfaction for them and their family. You can only do the things that you are aware of.
- Very few of our citizens that are facing retirement are equipped financially to do so and so large numbers of them will have to continue to work. Universal conscription will have a beneficial effect in as much as it delays the introduction of a few million new faces into the work force each year,

thus leaving space for these older workers.

- We must also face the fact that there are many in our society that are good people, fine to be friends with, good workers but every so often they go off the rails because there are no structures to help them maintain a balance in their lives that does not include the justice system at frequent intervals. We need to find a place in the NS for these folks and help them be the best people they can be and move them into the asset column rather than being a drain on society. A structure inside of the military is much more adept at keeping people propped up rather than locked down.

This is not the best place for a detailed analysis for what would be the hardest part of selling such a plan

is how does it get paid for, but the following highlights show that it would be economically positive. 1. Cost shifting - Some of the money needed for the influx of as many as 2 million new faces each year

will come from the transfer of the costs of the work that is currently being done by contractors. All the manual labor such as landscaping, laundry, building maintenance, data entry and other low-level entry type jobs will be filled with those who have the least skills and need the most assistance. Most will not have any useful job experience or any ideas on what it is like to have a job. These jobs will be a net savings to the nation's budgets.

a. The avoided/transferred costs of the former private contractor doing the chore (many of these private contractors will probably be draft eligible so they will not be net job losses)

b. The avoided/transferred costs of any job training that might occurred

c. For those that will in effect become wards of the system where they are working there will be the savings associated with welfare and police costs.

2. Avoided Costs - Societal

a. The avoided costs of any welfare payments to individuals that might need assistance

b. The avoided costs of violent crimes that won't occur by the 18-year old's that will be in the military. With as many as 200,000 violent crimes committed by this group a 10% reduction would save the police/judicial/prison systems over \$ 2 billion annually

c. Long term Reduced welfare costs associated with old age. Since everyone will be brought into the workforce via UC at an early age everyone will get started earlier on making contributions to Social Security so that their benefit amounts will be larger.

3. Avoided Costs - Medical

a. 10% reduction in the medical costs associated with these violent crimes would save another \$2 billion annually

b. Summary of youth health status

i. 30% of young adults couldn't meet military fitness standards for entry

ii. 18% of 18-year-olds are obese

iii. 12 million children are obese
iv. By 2030 half of the population will be obese
v. Obesity consumes over \$ 350 billion in medical costs, 20% of total health care
c. \$100 billion in medical costs could be saved annually due to better health of the citizens after the first five years of Universal Conscription and then continue to grow
d. \$100 billion in system savings due to single payer system
4. Increased Revenue
a. 16% of kids don't graduate from high school, if that is cut to 5% the additional money that someone makes with a high school diploma vs without one will generate \$ 300 million in new income taxes in the first 5 years
i. Some % of these kids will also continue their education further increasing their value
I wish you the best of luck in your campaign
Regards,
Richard Lane

Date	Text of Response
2/19/2019	Even with undeclared unconstitutional wars we seem to manage to attract enough young people to come forward. I am opposed to any kind of compulsory national service or military draft. Voluntary service only!
2/19/2019	<p>Conscription for military service works for times of war. Failure to protect our nation and secure the liberty of its peoples may call for such measures. For without them, the nation falls and all the liberties guaranteed to its citizens vanish. That is the only reason to compel anyone to serve their nation on behalf of its government. Otherwise, our free and voluntary system of military service works quite well.</p> <p>What you are recommending is slavery, period. You wish to compel a free people to dedicate a year or more of their lives to national service. You want the government to decide what is best for a free person for a specific period of their life. You want to take ownership of their mind, body, and soul for the specifically to labor in service to the government. It is plain common sense that the system will be set up to deny every young adult sovereignty over their person; the right to choose to do or not do is the fundamental foundation of a free individual and a free society.</p> <p>Call it what you will - National Service, Americorps, Peace Corps, or God's Will - that does not change the fact that without the very existence of our nation at risk, you wish to subvert liberty to your choice. That is tyranny. And anyone who supports that is a traitor to his country.</p>

2/19/2019	<p>A service requirement for all Americans is not necessary, valuable, or feasible. We should be clear that people are not talking about such a requirement for ALL Americans. Rather, the idea is to grab only people on the younger side of adulthood who were unfortunate enough to enter that phase of life after forced service was created by the elected representatives of voters who largely would be immune because they are no longer young enough. If forced service ever comes about, it will be because a majority supports a serious commitment imposed just on others--not a recipe for social harmony or any believable notion of shared sacrifice. In the absence of a true and calamitous national security emergency requiring a massive expansion of military forces -- an unbelievable prospect in all contemporary and future scenarios -- there is little reason to believe forced service of any kind is warranted.</p> <p>Since "all" Americans won't be dragooned, the real question is whether it is necessary, valuable, and feasible for young adults to be forced into service administered by the government. First, it is not necessary or valuable for these people to be forced into such service--respectfully, those who think otherwise are proposing a coercive solution for problems that do not exist. The military operates very effectively as an all-volunteer force. There is no serious shortage of applicants for public employment or even for participation in publicly-administered internships and paid temporary work for the public good. I know of no place in this country that has suffered from any sort of calamity that has lacked for an energetic response that includes volunteerism on a large scale. What exactly is going underserved where the real cure is servitude by the young, rather than, say, more effectively using existing resources? One example that comes to mind is abysmally bad public education in certain urban areas. Time and again, it has been demonstrated that reconfiguring public resources to allow for better learning (i.e., making schools serve their customers (students) as much as their workers (teachers) improves outcomes). People who live in "education deserts" and are motivated to have their children succeed know this (hence the demand for vouchers and charter schools). Why would indifferent forced teaching assistants in standard public schools be preferable?</p> <p>Next, a national conscription program is not feasible in a country with \$21 trillion in just its Federal debt, and another \$1 trillion or so being added every year. I think it very doubtful that the same voting majority that would impose forced service on others would agree to higher taxes on itself to pay for an expensive new national program. This country has reached the stage where spending every public dollar must be strictly justified. Taking on any new discretionary spending where nondiscretionary spending is pressuring our nation in ever-greater measure makes no sense at all.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
2/19/2019	<p>7. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible?</p> <p>No, it is not valuable or feasible. Forcing someone to serve in any capacity is just another form of slavery and un-American.</p>
2/20/2019	<p>Obligatory service is the sworn enemy of voluntary service. Americans learned nearly a century ago that a lifetime of involuntary servitude was wrong, and nearly half a century ago that conscription for years of military service was wrong. Involuntary servitude, even for a year, is similarly wrong. People chafe at being forced to do even things that they would enthusiastically do voluntarily; far more so things that they would not.</p>

	The site is called Inspire2Serve, not Require2Serve. So set about the difficult and nuanced task of inspiring, rather than falling back on the blunt instrument of force.
2/20/2019	Forcing all young persons into the military is a gross violation of their rights and is the sort of thing that belongs in Stalin's USSR or Hitler's Third Reich. It's (1) unconstitutional; (2) immoral, and (3) insane. The whole idea behind the United States of America is human rights, not the convenience of power-hungry politicians to wield ever more military intimidation around the world.

2/20/2019	<p>I'm submitting this "Common Sense" commentary as my statement. It was published on April 19, 2018.http://thisiscommonsense.com/2018/04/19/leave-those-kids-alone/"Leave Those Kids Alone"Congress created The National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service "to consider and develop recommendations concerning the need for a military draft, and means by which to foster a greater attitude and ethos of service among American youth."Is it possible that Congress and the commissioners have never considered the inherent contradiction between forcing people into the military against their will and fostering an "ethos of service"?Today, I will get perhaps two minutes to address this commission at a hearing in Denver, Colorado, answering these questions it has posed:Q: Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security?The military draft has never at any time in the history of this country been a necessary component in U.S. national security. Q: Are modifications to the selective service system needed?No. The Selective Service System, the people who force very young men into the military against their will, needs to be ended. Not modified. Not expanded to women. End draft registration. Close the agency.The United States should renounce any use of conscription. A free country need not force people into the military to defend it.Q: Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible?Necessary? Not on your life. Americans have always stepped forward — not only to defend their own country, but also in hopes of defending people across the globe.Valuable? That's a bad joke. People forced to kill and die in Vietnam and other conflicts and those imprisoned for refusing to take part in such a system fail to see any value. The draft has been disastrous.What is valuable are the lives and rights of the young. They are free citizens, not Congress's pawns.Feasible? No. Because too many of us will fight you, refusing to go along. Even if it means our imprisonment.* Plus, a conscripted army is a poor substitute for the All Volunteer Force.The draft is unnecessary, divisive and dangerous.Q: How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve?Be worthy of the voluntary service of the American people.If the government is responsible, then people will respond to protect it.Commit to raising an army of soldiers and service providers by persuading citizens to freely serve their communities and their country. In short, this commission and this Congress should forswear the use of involuntary servitude and commit to freedom.That would be truly inspiring.This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.* I was one of 20 young men prosecuted for publicly refusing to register for the draft in the 1980s.</p>
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2/20/2019	<p>I'm submitting this "Common Sense" commentary for consideration by the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service. It was published on Feb. 20, 2019.http://thisiscommonsense.com/2019/02/20/the-opposite-of-freedom/"The Opposite of Freedom" Do your young adult children need the government to take over their lives for, say, a year, to whip them into tip-top citizenship shape? Forced service could be the new rite of passage into adulthood. Right after our kids finally get through high school or college, slap 12 months of "service to the nation" on them to help foster appreciation for the freedom . . . they had, instead, hoped to start enjoying. Sound good? No. Not even to the folks at the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service (NCMNPS). Appointed to advise Congress on whether to end draft registration or expand it to women, and whether to force all young people to give up a year of their lives doing military or civilian "national service" for the federal government, the commissioners seem to eschew compulsion. Their emails, their website address expresses "inspire2serve.gov" . . . not "force2serve.gov." Because inspiring people is noble, while conscription is despicable and wrong. Commissioners talk about a "personal commitment," "a culture of service," and the "overwhelming desire to serve" they've found among young people. Is it all just a ruse in route to a recommendation to Congress that young people should be forced against their will into government service? And not even to repel invading hordes, not for any real emergency, but for basic government make-work and pretend nation-building. Tomorrow at American University in the nation's capital, the commission is holding a public hearing entitled, "Should Service be Mandatory?" No. Involuntary servitude is a stupid idea. And the opposite of freedom. This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.</p>
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2/21/2019	<p>Service is a noble thing and one which I believe everyone should aspire to. However, I don't believe it should ever be mandatory, not for the military, nor for a national or public purpose. Involuntary servitude makes slaves of citizens. When service becomes mandatory is it really service any longer?</p> <p>Furthermore, there is no Constitutional authority to set up a system of national "service." The role of the federal government is very limited, and according to our founding documents the role of government is to protect our life, liberty, and property. Therefore, a national "service" program is antithetical to the core ideals this country was founded on.</p> <p>The selective service system should be abolished and any plans for a program of forced national "service" should be scrapped.</p> <p>Sincerely, Anne Calzone Dixon MO</p>
2/21/2019	<p>One quick critique, change the banner on your homepage it says "strengthening our democracy" but we are a Republic. Now the main. Being a soldier myself I would not want somebody serving alongside me that did not want to be there that was there because it was mandatory. That person would be unproductive and reluctant to follow orders. That person would be less likely to go out of their way to make sure the job was done. And it would do everything they could to get out of training. I joined because it's what I wanted to do when I was 7 years old and that carried all the way through my teenage years. I'm proud of my service and I wouldn't change anything about it. Also making service 2 our nation either in military or other capacities would put a strain on taxpayers and the budget</p>
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2/21/2019	<p>Sir, I served, and continue to serve as a DAC, three of my children served and one is still serving as a female DI at parris island. Without the benefit of the study I offer several points to consider in understanding the shortfalls, several of which you mentioned on Breitbart. They are as follows: smaller pool of eligible candidates; importance and regard for military disparaged in media, schools, public; long war without clear end state/victory; lawyers running military leading to public prosecutions of soldiers; using military for social policy testing grounds (transgender policy); lowering physical and mental standards; I have more and can expound on any provided. They are informed opinion based on prior service and continued connection to even the youngest recruits.</p>

2/21/2019	<p>Gen. Heck,</p> <p>I listened to you this AM on Brietbart. I enlisted in the US Navy on 16 May 1978. I'm a graduate of both the Naval Academy Prep School and US Naval Academy. I'm a retired Navy Pilot and I'm currently managed a Learning Resource Center (LRC) for a Fleet Replacement Squadron; HSM-40 in Mayport FL. I have been in and around the Navy for over 40 years.</p> <p>I have many suggestions but one I've been thinking about for a long time. The program the young Aircrew students go through is intense both in the classroom and with hands on events. I think these young men and women should be awarded with an Associates Degree. The effort and work to complete the Aircrew is far more intense than other AA programs on the street. There are many other programs in the Navy and other services that can boast the same.</p> <p>I work with Pilots and Aircrew. Especially the Aircrewmen, I thank God for these young men and women.</p> <p>Thank you for your time General.</p> <p>Beat Army!</p> <p>Charlie O'Brien CDR USNR (Ret)</p>
2/21/2019	<p>In a free society, people serve other people by CHOICE, not by force.</p> <p>Do not, I implore you, force conscription upon our population. When we are threatened, people will step up to defend this country. If we choose to serve our fellow man, we will do so. In either case, if we are forced to do so, we will do so half-heartedly, if with any enthusiasm at all.</p> <p>It will not work.</p> <p>Gordon Smith Austin TX</p>
2/21/2019	<p>Conscription is a morally bankrupt concept, and a clear violation of the Bill of Rights, 1st, 4th and 8th amendments. It is nothing short of treason to attempt to enslave, even for a short period unconvicted members of the population.</p>
2/21/2019	<p>A truly "free" country should not have to, nor be able to force its citizens to "serve" it. Leave our kids alone.</p>
2/21/2019	<p>Please. Let's have less government power, not more.</p>

2/21/2019	Draft is a must we are weak and we need to bring back knowledge and experience back to the front lines and stop pussy footing around with our security and turn on the Signs . Americans have forgotten what this country can do with strength in numbers. We need to bring the blood back to the people and show that we are not weak. Stop letting these pussy footing college generational book smart patrons. We need to bring back order in the ranks and stopped treating our men and women who serviced or are serving the support.
2/21/2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Service has value but servitude degrades both the master and the slave. 2. Make a term of service a prerequisite to the right to vote. Giving franchise to anyone who manages to breathe for 18 years is a poor way to have an informed electorate. 3. Physical and mental fitness to serve are the primary barriers. Perhaps for certain non-military positions these could be changed or eliminated. 4. Increase incentives both current and future. See # 2 above. 5. NO! Whether it was ever necessary is debatable but it certainly is not now. Conscription of any kind is nothing short of slavery. If free citizens are unwilling to participate in their nation's defense either the particular conflict is unnecessary to that defense or the nation itself has become obsolete as a worthy society. 6. Elimination of Selective Service is needed. 7. Mandatory service is slavery so is unnecessary, valueless, infeasible as well as reprehensible.
2/21/2019	The very disturbing trend in today's political atmosphere is the gradual shift from the government being our servant (Of the people, by the people, and FOR the people) to being our "master" - or "You serve us". Declarations being made by many of the "new"? congress are telling us that they will tell us how to conduct ourselves, fit into their "visions", AND "Abandon your belief systems. Embrace ours."
2/21/2019	I believe mandatory national service for graduating high school youth is beneficial for the individual and country. 18 year olds need to be directed, trained and exposed to the larger world. If adopted this service will broaden the individuals horizons and gives the population a common experience which will help bind the future generations together in supporting their country.
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2/21/2019	I believe that our young people would greatly benefit from the discipline and camaraderie of the military. I also think that they would further develop character, empathy, and a sense of purpose and place.
2/21/2019	My name is James Eugene Klein. I faced being drafted during the Vietnam War but enlisted in the USNR, was deemed intelligent enough so as to attend the USN ROC program and was commissioned as an Ensign in the USNR on October 25, 1968. Being forced to serve in an illegal war conducted by the war criminals in office between 1964 and 1975 destroyed my life and killed 55,000 brave souls. There are 300 million American citizens and over 600 million firearms in the USA. Drafting men and women

	to fight, kill and die in the name of American imperialism will result in a civil war by armed citizens against the US government and will destroy this great country. Thank you for taking my comment.
2/21/2019	<p>While opposed to mandatory military service, I think an inclusive National Service (by anyone between ages of 17 and 30) is valuable. My outline is this: 1) No one is declined, unless their physical and/or mental health is extreme. 2) Two years of required service to our society could include such choices as: a) military, b) teacher corps, c) medical service, d) environmental service, e) infrastructure volunteers, f) sociological assistance, g) VISTA and Peace Corps type services.</p> <p>The benefits resulting from successful completion of such services should include: 1) tuition to any state university (military service, because of potential physical danger to those who served, could have augmented educational benefits, housing, books), 2) Priority consideration for government employment (i.e. Postal Service, etc.). 3) Medical benefits (equivalent to members of Congress).</p> <p>This is, obviously, just a rough sketch of an idea that I think will strengthen our society and contribute to building responsible democracy.</p>
2/21/2019	<p>I was a part of the last Military Draft -around 1970 during later days of the Vietnam War. It was done by birth dates; and the first 200 dates picked were drafted into the military. Unfortunately, my birth date came up number 69. At the time I was really mad as I planned to be married soon. I was scheduled to leave only 10 days after my wedding day. Looking back now, I'm glad I served honorably and would completely support a re-institution of the draft or some other reasonable means of conscription. As I see it, that would be the only real way of making sure we have sufficient men & women in the military when we need them.</p>

2/21/2019	<p>Hi ther, to thos tht ar alrdy undrtakn to try to bettr improv not only th why of servic but th need to as well for our servic,s ar lackin in mny key criticl areas for safe secur functng servic,s for it shldn,t be for th \$ gain but instead th skills & knowldg tht will be gained as well as a real sens o commitmnt & Alligianc to helping to evn bettr defend th USA but in th process hdlp to remov this sens of Entitlmnt by thes young Americans tht once get out of H. S. want to go into workforc & get paid way more thn ther present skills allow, thus putting a strain on our economy & local community,s too, so wht I propose is they all ar given a choice of wht they like to pursue if not goin on to College, it should be mandatory for thm to pick one of thes 4 choic,s, this even befor joining th work forc too! They ar these 1 Start w th military servic,s they serv for minm o 3-4 yrs in choic of servic, w an optn to get a Associates earned some time befor finishin ther tour stint! 2 They can work on a US farm for 2-3yrs doin th chores tht need to be done & learning valuabl lessons bout how much it takes to bring food to th market & their tables! 3 Can do a stint in th Peace Corps in an overseas 3rd W Country for 2yrs & share & see how other peopl ar livin & bring bck a sens o pride in bein an American worker doi. some good in bettrin th rest of th world, & hopefully lose ther sens o Entitlmnt as Americans, & develop a bettr sens of being Patriotic & a real love & respect of country too! And 4 last but not least can apply for various Votech training courses of at least 1-2 yrs such as Electricians, Pipefitters, Welders, etc & have guaranteed placemnt upon Graduating & have to commit 3-5 yrs to th Business tht first hires them, before can seek other employmnt elsewher! These 4 choices will I believ not only take care erasing this current sens of Entitlemnt & tht they are some how owed a better livin, but will also instill in them a sens of National spirit tht is sadly lackin now from mny personal views & a tru sens o Patriotism & belief tht America truly is a special Nation & very important influenc on th world scene too! This is how we can all come back together as one despite th ongoin Bipartisan bickerin by our Gov! And also th non helpin pts of th Mass Media jus pointing out how divided we hav become after Ob finished his just horrible rundwn o America & how he meddled w anythng tht was alrdy workin fine too! A true American Patriot tht just wants our country to come back to pre 911 times or closer to that at least & stop tryin to make us mistrust each other so much! Sincerely Mr Jon Hirschak of Mi</p>
2/21/2019	<p>I came to the United States (with my parents and younger brother) as a immigrant at the age of 16, already speaking and schooled in the English language, and when I turned 18, I was issued a draft card, even when I was not a citizen yet, but after a couple of years of college with not having any classes to take for the career I wanted to pursue, I joined the California National Guard....proudly .did my 6 months active duty, then 5 1/2 years of reserves....the Army actually helped me towards securing my citizenship. This morning, I got hooked on watching the panel discussion on C-Span , making me wonder why as alternative to regular 3/4 years of service, people might not be given the option of serving in the National Guard, only taking 6 months of active duty out of their school years, and then return to school, possibly with some monetary help towards their education. That way, they can still learn a skill relevant to the Armed Forces needs, and if called upon during a LEGIT National emergency, then already have their basic skills in place for whatever protection this country needs.....I'm so, so lucky this country allowed me to come here, and would die protecting it for future generations.....just my thoughts.....</p>

2/21/2019	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I watched the National Commission Hearing on a Mandatory Service Policy today. I do not agree with forcing people to enlist in the military. I believe a volunteer military is what makes our military amazing. If we make military service mandatory then we might as well rip up the Constitution and the Bill of Rights because the people will no longer have the freedom of choice. If we are no longer free to choose our fate, we are no longer Americans. Mandatory service is an idea that despots impose, places like North Korea enact this type of freedom obstruction to create "nationalism" and "patriotism" in the image of obeisance to tyrants.</p> <p>While I know that you are not my State or Federal Representatives, I still wanted to write you and let you know about this alarming hearing. Please do not allow Americans to be Mandated to give up their freedom of choice. Please spread the word about the Hearing and educate people about the dangers of Tyranny that seems to be looming on the horizon.</p> <p>Thank you, Robin Smith</p>
2/22/2019	no draft
2/22/2019	<p>I am a veteran. I think that a mandatory service requirement for all Americans is un-American. Please forget that idea. It would be like slavery for a year.</p> <p>Dave White  Ponca City, OK </p>
2/22/2019	<p>As a Vietnam veteran who served voluntarily I am against universal servitude. I believe it is a violation of the 13th Amendment, would be an expensive practice added to a absurdly spendthrift government, and would serve to further alienate a young population already propagandized in public school to ignorant misconceptions of what this country is or was about.</p>
2/22/2019	<p>The draft is slavery, period. If a country is genuinely threatened, there will be no shortage of volunteers. No one has the right to force someone else to pick up a gun and kill or be killed.</p>
2/22/2019	<p>End draft registration now--for everyone. It isn't necessary to force American citizens to defend this country in any legitimate war. The draft/registration go against everything America stands for. In a free country, one does not enslave a person in order to get him to serve his country. And who gets to determine what manner of service is the most useful for a country? That should be left up to the individual who will be providing it. Stop ignoring the 13th Amendment.</p>

2/23/2019	<p>I am against mandatory service. I know its historically unknown, but increased pay is probaby a better method of increasing troops. My husband thinks it's a good idea to have voluntary weapon use and appreciation classes as opposed to subscription into "service", especially if we are talking education. But me personally, about a draft. Just why? Are we seriously thinking about war? I can't see anything to gain, only lose. And in a day and age where tech, and robotics could potentially be our soldiers. Why sacrifice freedom and life just because we can. But at the same time, enemies at our door, Russia threatening another Cuban missile, keeping a cool head is what saved us last time, I see no reason it couldn't again. A draft is an over reaction. How long were we at war before the call for a draft was made? Aren't we jumping the gun? And were is our war? Our war is transitory. Terror could be anyone or anything, and therefore never ending. This thing could easily sprial until we are a more military state then we already are. And why? Because we need to stay on top? Insufficient. It's quality of military, not quantity and is going to make the difference these days. Because it will make us better people? Forced virtue is like telling someone they can build a house, but taking away all the tools they need to actually do it. The heart of service is in the motivation. I thought this day would come years ago and that I would watch my then younger brothers be called off to fight. Now they are probaby well past the draft age, but when I think of the idea of that pain, I would never put anyone through that if it could be helped. See, you might be used to the idea but others see no point fighting and maybe dying over a bit of oil in the ground that we can get right at home anyway. Thanks for listening.</p>
2/23/2019	<p>This is an excellent opportunity to end the relic of compulsory "service". As most generals have stated, our military works best with volunteers, not conscripts. Taking a year from every young American is immoral. It violates the right to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness that defines our nation. Please take this opportunity to expunge the stain of compulsory "service" from our great nation.</p>
2/23/2019	<p>I don't think the draft could be reinstated without massive protesting due to its failure to include women. Since women are now in combat roles, there is no reason they can't be drafted. Same with LGBT individuals.</p> <p>The draft should include ALL americans.</p> <p>Any concerns about women not meeting the physical requirements would be addressed during each person's physical examination. But many women are stronger than many men.</p> <p>Any claims of sociological roles of men/women are 100% sexist and have no place in society today.</p> <p>I don't think the draft system is even fully necessary, much of the data is missing and inaccurate anyway, and there are more efficient ways to get potential recruits information from public records.</p> <p>I think a lot of us young people of military age at this point really dislike the state of the country and would rather leave the country than fight for it if they had to choose one.</p> <p>Thank you, - Ben</p>

2/23/2019	National "servitude" must never be permitted to return to the United States. The Military does not want it, and the young people who would be victimized do not want it. Who wants it? I can only understand this advocacy for a form of slavery as the social philosophy of "the group ownership of individuals," with chieftains selecting which members to sacrifice to the gods.
2/23/2019	I'm a Veteran who volunteered to serve, served for 6 years, and was honorably discharged. However, I do not believe that a free country should require anyone to serve. Moreover, mandatory service violates both the 1st and 13th Amendments. Finally, for most people including me, military service is not worthwhile, does not benefit most Veterans, and results in harm to far too many Veterans.
2/23/2019	<p>How do we get citizens to buy into the concept of common citizenship duties that are "expected" of everyone? How do we enhance the American belief in egalitarian opportunities for all? How do we make any of this happen given the vast differences in people's starting points from birth? I say the answer to all these questions lies, in part, in a "citizenship requirement" that all citizens must undertake in order to share full citizenship benefits. We do NOT need a military draft, but fulfilling a military or quasi-military function should be an option. The default roles that would complete a person's "citizenship requirement" would be predominantly civilian in nature. They would have one important similarity to a military draft, however. That similarity would be in the enforced mixing of people from all strata of society and across geographic, cultural, religious and racial lines. The shared experiences of all who go through this period of service would serve as a catalyst for bringing the American "melting pot" myth into actual fruition. There are many ways that this could be accomplished. Those are tactical details from my point of view. The importance of having the proposed "citizenship requirement" is to give everyone a common point of "buy in" to the society. The shared cross-cultural experience is THE goal and an essential part of what it will come to mean to be an "American." Absent some sort of unifying experience, I see no reason to think that the nation will ever become less fragmented than it now is. This fragmentation threatens our very existence in the long run. And unfortunately, the "long run" may not be all that far away. If this commission does not recognize this vision as central to its purpose, then whatever else may come from its work will be lost effort. Diversity is a central characteristic of this country. But what has made our form of diversity rich over time is how we've all learned to borrow from one another's backgrounds. Yet, we've lost or face diminished strength in many of our institutions that helped bring us together locally, regionally and nationally. We must find our way back to adopting the best parts of each other's backgrounds. Just as importantly we must learn to appreciate each other's struggles and successes. As we do this, we learn how to avoid unnecessary (even artificial) struggles and how to emulate successes. In effect, we create the mythical rising tide to lift all boats. None of this "citizenship requirement" will be a panacea to our multiple societal problems. But it will provide a firm base upon which to build solutions that will enjoy wide acceptance. I have more to add to this, but I see my space is clearly limited. Should anyone wish to contact me for additional thoughts, I can be reached by e-mail at [REDACTED]</p>

2/24/2019	#5 Yes, The draft is a necessary component of the U.S. national security. One would say "yes" only if we face a great war. Who knows when a great war will start. The U.S. military must be ready with all the "if's" in the world for a global engagement. Stop to think how long it will take to quickly amass numbers of citizens, train and equipped them.
2/24/2019	Abolish the draft.
2/24/2019	We need to keep the Selective Service System while adding the registration of women as well as men. All US citizens should need to register.
2/24/2019	<p>As I am sure you are aware:</p> <p>“A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”</p> <p>The 1902 the Dick act unconstitutionally deregulated the reserve (unorganized) militia from 35 regulations to 9. More importantly if one considers the historical jurisprudence stemming from sec. 7 of the Second militia act of 1792 (based on “the Blue Book”) over 1150+ regulations were repealed.</p> <p>This infringement has led to a less secure state.</p> <p>On January 18, 1790 George Washington, “conceiving the subject to be of the highest importance to the welfare of our country” presented to congress “for the general arrangement of the militia” a letter from Secretary of War Henry Knox. Who stated that “it has been my anxious desire to devise a nation system of defense, adequate to the probable exigencies of the United States, whether arising from internal or external causes; and, at the same time, to erect a standard of republican magnanimity, independent of, and superior to, the power influences of wealth.”</p> <p>If the commission does not consider this while including females, and hopefully people of intersex, in what we now define as the unorganized militia a continual deform of a more perfect Union will occur. We will continue to be less able to establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity.</p>
2/24/2019	Item 7 is of importance to me. As a drafted male who was one of the lower class members of society and sent to Vietnam because I did not have and my parents did not have the wealth to get me out of getting drafted I spent two years of my life in a combat unit while a majority of males around me did not serve. As an aside my brother who is 15 months younger than I am also ended up in Vietnam at the same time I was there in a combat unit. He was severely wounded at the end of his tour. So I believe every able bodied American should have to experience this type of experience. I believe it would toughen up the youth of this nation. So I am in favor of some kind of mandatory two year service for every young American. Another aside, my son was a US Army Ranger and my brothers son was a Marine.

2/24/2019	<p>Commission Members,I am a retired service member from the Air Force. I offer my basic thoughts about your proposal combined with my experience teaching young members of the military for 20 years.I think your stated goal is admirable, but the way you are going about it is completely off. Forced participation in public service or the military will not bring the youth of today together, but rather make them resentful of those in charge. Think about the times in your past you were forced to do something you really didn't want to. Whether it was eating your vegetables or going to bed on early, odds are when you were in your late teens to early twenties you did not like being "told" you "had to". That it's the basic problem with your proposal.In my 20 years, with several serving as a squadron commander, I learned the best way to deal with people in general was the nudge or make them think it was their idea approach. The basic goal of this nation should be to expound freedom and the current "conscription" plan as it is currently being discussed would actually take us farther away from the ideal than bring us together.I've learned that you shouldn't critique a plan without at least offering alternatives to accomplishing the goals. Instead of a direct approach and a direct must do for every individual, it would be better to provide incentives to achieve the goals, so here is what I propose.1. Require all citizens to register at the age of 18. This expands the current requirement to all citizens and allows access to scholarships, government employment and other incentives.2. Set up criteria for public service. Examples would be member of the military, first responder, classroom teacher (not administrator), public works individual (not administrator) and definitely NOT politicians at any level.3. The baseline requirement would be for all citizens to either work in these fields or volunteer in the fields until the following goals are met: A. 8,000 hours of work (equals 3 years of active duty military). This is the baseline goal for everyone. B. Yearly goals of 350 hours of work for those who volunteer (this spreads the 8,000 hour requirement among 22 years of age 18 to 40).4. If you meet goal A, then your taxes remain the same. If you haven't accomplished A, but achieve B every year, then your taxes remain the same. If you do not accomplish A or B, then your tax rate become 50% regardless of income until A or B happens.While this doesn't solve my dislike about forced conscription, this model allows people a choice in how to serve and provides incentives and consequences for action.</p>
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2/24/2019

I just read your January 2019 interim report, and I'll give you this: You're all over the map, with whining about military service, public service, and volunteerism.

In particular, I'm concerned about how you're mixing military service with everything else. Selective service has always been about less-than-fully-voluntary military service, so let's not pretend otherwise, however you're choosing to white-wash your charter.

With this in mind, here's a few suggestions:

1. To the extent that whatever you end up with for involuntary military service is implemented, people can only be drafted for events in which ***Congress has declared a war***. The Nation can use the volunteer military forces for whatever other adventures it wants to pursue.

2. If you're really serious about increasing civil engagement, then how about this: Every person who's signed up for the draft AUTOMATICALLY IS REGISTERED TO VOTE. How hard could that be? And, to the extent that the draft updates people's registration as they move, it AUTOMATICALLY UPDATES THEIR VOTER REGISTRATION. I've been surprised that local high schools routinely register males for the draft but don't offer the same service for voter registration.

3. You're probably not responsible for implementation. That's too bad, because even the best ideas are useless if they're implemented poorly.

We're now just getting President Bone-Spur to Vietnam (and only a couple of decades late). So how about adding some implementation "lessons learned"?

4. Finally, about volunteer service. In talking to young people who have a service requirement as part of their school or scouting curriculum, I've been astonished at the variation among tasks that count as "service".

I don't know what you're going to offer as "incentives" for serving, but let's keep the ways of gaming the system to a low roar.

Good luck.

2/24/2019	<p>I just read your January 2019 interim report, and I'll give you this: You're all over the map, with whining about military service, public service, and volunteerism. In particular, I'm concerned about how you're mixing military service with everything else. Selective service has always been about less-than-fully-voluntary military service, so let's not pretend otherwise, however you're choosing to white-wash your charter. With this in mind, here's a few suggestions: 1. To the extent that whatever you end up with for involuntary military service is implemented, people can only be drafted for events in which ***Congress has declared a war***. The Nation can use the volunteer military forces for whatever other adventures it wants to pursue. 2. If you're really serious about increasing civil engagement, then how about this: Every person who's signed up for the draft AUTOMATICALLY IS REGISTERED TO VOTE. How hard could that be? And, to the extent that the draft updates people's registration as they move, it AUTOMATICALLY UPDATES THEIR VOTER REGISTRATION. I've been surprised that local high schools routinely register males for the draft but don't offer the same service for voter registration. 3. You're probably not responsible for implementation. That's too bad, because even the best ideas are useless if they're implemented poorly. We're now just getting President Bone-Spur to Vietnam (and only a couple of decades late). So how about adding some implementation "lessons learned"? 4. Finally, about volunteer service. In talking to young people who have a service requirement as part of their school or scouting curriculum, I've been astonished at the variation among tasks that count as "service". I don't know what you're going to offer as "incentives" for serving, but let's keep the ways of gaming the system to a low roar. Good luck.</p>
2/24/2019	<p>Selective Service Act. I understand that there should be an equality of the sexes for the Selective Service Act but you also have to understand that there are also a lot more autoimmune diseases that cannot be seen by the human eye and/or eye conditions that start at birth and continue to gradually get worse as you get older despite treatment. These things need to be considered very strongly because they cannot be overlooked as you will be putting someone's life and a parent's child's life in danger. Think hard before you decide to mess up a family's life!</p>

2/24/2019	<p>As a citizen of the USA, and a male it is my position that women should be excluded from registration in the selective service draft when they turn the age of 18 years old.</p> <p>If they want to join the military in a combat position they should be allowed to enlist.</p> <p>Women are indispensable in our societies future. They carry our future in pregnancy.</p> <p>Men are dispensable. We supply the sperm.</p> <p>The women's role was so much more important and therefore should not be forced into harm's way.</p>
2/24/2019	<p>Yes the women should be in the service so they can get killed and their legs and arms blown off and become a prisoner of war so they can be tortured. sexually molested being naked slapped and beaten until they talk being dirty never getting cleaned up stepping on land mines and never seeing their child or playing with them, laying face down in the mud being wet. and cold all night and not getting any sleep going on patrol</p> <p>the only thing is the men will feel sorry for you. seeing you. and knowing you don't belong there</p>
2/25/2019	<p>The draft, and its mandatory registration for such once a young man reaches the age of 18 as it currently stands, needs to be abolished. There should be no draft whatsoever. Offer more incentives, and actually keep the promises offered by recruiters, and one will see a larger enrollment in selective service programs. The mandatory registration process is unfair to young men, as those who have any interest in military activities have already enrolled by this time (whether for college credit, job experience, career advancement or other reasons). The same can also be said for most women who have reached draft registration age. If the DOD wants to make it more enticing for the young people so they enroll on their own, then offer special perks and benefits. But, other than that, the mandatory draft enlistment needs to end.</p>
2/25/2019	<p>#7 yes all americans should serve. service should be compulsory. objectors should have to serve in a non military capacity. #4 draft everyone. draw necessary skills from the pool. #1 yes among other benefits are social intergration, discipline & teamwork. Thomas Schmuecker Paragould Arkansas. thank you for this opportunity to express my opinion.</p>
2/25/2019	<p>I think a universal draft with mandatory service is a good thing for our people of this nation. So few young people don't understand what our freedom is all about!</p>
2/25/2019	<p>I think a universal draft with mandatory service is a good thing for our people of this nation. So few young people don't understand what our freedom is all about!</p>

2/25/2019	<p>To Whom It May Concern:</p> <p>I am a 30 year old mother of twins, post-military wife, and a once AFJROTC cadet. I love my country so much that I went into a 4 year Air Force JROTC program that was completed in 2 years. I was in high school but I was able to get Certified by the Air Force in boroscopying F16 jet engines, flight simulators, and became quite well at drill and ceremony in those years. It was one of the only programs like it in the country at the time. I was honored and excited to serve my country. However, I went down a different path. I got married, ended up having twin boys and being an Army wife of a Military Police. He served 5 years. 1 year was served in Iraq and 1 year in South Korea. I understood how the military worked and what was expected but what I wasn't prepared for was the ridiculous amount of cheating that goes on. My husband stayed faithful but about 90% of those we knew were not. It was a huge mistake mixing women into the MP Corps. The men had temptation dangled in front of them every day, from where the women slept intermingled separated by a little sheet next to them, from the health issues the women faced, to the lack of being able to make a decision without overreacting. Almost every woman thought with her heart rather than her head and most lost self respect for modesty and chastity. I met very few military women that were good women. Women that were placed in charge of convoys or were in a convoy often put my husband and many men in danger either out of dumb decision or having to use the restroom frequently. They would hide rather than fight on many occasions. At one instance my husband had a woman commander panicked and jump on his lap and start pounding his helmet and screaming because she couldn't get a communication line to work, I can't see a man behave this way. There are several instances that similar occurrences happen. I am not a woman who is Anti-woman but I am a woman that is Anti-women being in combat if at all possible because women cannot not handle things like a man. I am a pretty tough woman and I believed that I could hack it in the military but I saw women who were having to and they did an awful job. I was worried for my husbands' safety and for almost every marriage. I do not believe it to be a wise decision to have an all american draft. I believe it to be in every respect foolish and that we will fail in combat readiness. Thank you for your time.</p> <p>-Angel</p>
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2/25/2019	<p>Dear Commission,I believe there is an important role for mandatory public service, viz., to help foster community, connections among and an a positive affective attachment to our nation, i.e., real patriotism, among our 325,000,000 citizens. I believe that the U.S. should provide for and ensure the health and education of all our citizens by engineering a "Medicare for All" health program and education for all from pre-school through college/vocational school as many developed nations already possess. In return for the nation taking care of its citizens' health and education, the citizenry would be expected (mandatorily) to contribute to the nation by providing two years of national/public service. This public service could be for the military, any branch of the government, or any non-profit organization that could benefit from the service of a presumably young person with limited skills and knowledge. The period of service could be during high school, college/vocational school, or afterwards. If during the school years, the "intern" could also tie the service into school course work and receive course credit. Service work could also be overseas in any cooperating country similar to the Peace Corps. Of course, there are many examples for public service: The Civilian Conservation Corps, the Works Project Administration, the Peace Corps, VISTA, AmeriCorps and of course national military conscription with Civilian Public Service during WWII and alternative public service during the Vietnam War.National public service is not a new idea. The value of national public service would have many benefits. It would promote and strengthen respect and responsibility for our nation/country. It would provide human energy for the many needs that we have. It would be a training and educational experience for youth, helping them prepare for life-long careers by helping them to learn how to work with others, learn about how complex our modern culture is, etc.Is there any limit to our current needs for public service? Low-income housing and housing for the homeless. (Look at what habitat for Humanity does!) Tree planting and environmental reclamation, helping the elderly and infirm in nursing homes, assisted living communities, or at people's homes (health care), hospitals, clinics. Working in rural and underserved communities, like our deteriorating inner cities. Organic farming, or industrial farming. Restoration of toxic sites or polluted waterways. And of course, military service. We are only limited by our imagination.And for this program, a Selective Service System would have a role to play. Ideas are a dime a dozen and a program of this magnitude and complexity would take time to plan out and finance and many years, perhaps decades, to engineer and implement to the point of efficient functioning.Thank you very much/Greg Haas, [REDACTED], Bloomington, IN [REDACTED]</p>
2/25/2019	<p>I am a retired USCG CWO4 having served 26 years active duty (both enlisted and officer), I very strongly support requiring the registration for the Selective Service for both men AND WOMEN. Not requiring this of women now is discriminatory towards men and should be corrected ASAP. This policy needs to be corrected immediately.</p> <p>Jay Lambert, USCG, CWO4 (ret)</p>

2/25/2019	I do not agree with forced military, public or national service. Forced service is servitude and is the first step to Fascism. Regarding the military I suggest showing the other side of service in the military, homelessness, death, injuries.
2/25/2019	<p>2. Offer grants for college, allow participants to receive pell grants no matter what income level their parents are at, obtain a social media division, visit more rural area schools, promote trade schools, Insure any licennce obtained is good in all 50 states without having to retest</p> <p>3. Military-All the kids know about the military in these days is War. The only spoke person the military have are recruiters. They don't do a great job about telling young kids about what pathway the military can provide after your service has been completed or how it can transfer over to the Public Sector. Provide funding for schools to take a trip to local VA Hospitals, ASVAB testing{Why} Military trains everyone for a specific job their in and this test does not accuratley evaluate that capability. Reevaluate the height/weight requirements National/Public-If your parents are not financial stable you can't afford the upfront cost,Spending time do something for free or what is considered as no tangible value has no interest for the young generation.</p> <p>4. Rural Schools Visits, Speaking with the younger generation about the career opporunties,dedicated mentors to guide them through the process, working with criminal justice system on second chance opporunties to allow military service in lieu of jail. Developing a cirriculum with HBCU's to provide the talent needed to have a pipeline of employable talent. Student Loan Forgivness</p>
2/25/2019	NO, women should not be REQUIRED to sign up for selective service registration. Capable women may already volunteer. In general, women are not as fast nor as physically strong as men, therefore women and mixed gender groups could not be as effective as all male groups in battle. This weaker link would put all soldiers in jeopardy. Imagine a future draft that requires women to be in battle. A mixed gender, weaker group would be at greater risk of being targeted and/or captured by an enemy. Capture of women would give leverage to the enemy, putting other soldiers in danger trying to rescue their fellow soldiers. In addition, women captured by extremists are in greater danger of sexual torture. These reasons will ALWAYS be valid.
2/25/2019	<p>As a female veteran who is now 70, to be part of our nations defense goes hand in hand with equal rights. Yes some will die. Our males have been dying in defense of our country. I enlisted in 1968. Supporting my brothers during that chaotic time was the only thing that made sense.</p> <p>What I encountered was a male dominated field holding tightly to the old guard. It was brutal. For those of us who were selected for this field, the training was counter to reality in the field. Survival in the desert is how we trained for jungle combat. I am sure things have changed as women proved themselves. Now, as those like Mariner who lead by quiet example pass, we women who were not allowed to be pilots due to our center of gravity, fly combat jets in combat. We touch the face of god, equally.</p> <p>I have waited a long time to hear women would be required to sign up. Thank you.</p>

2/25/2019	<p>Women should not be required to serve in the selective service. There are undoubtedly some women who are physically and emotionally prepared for this type of battlefield warfare, but they are probably a small minority. For most, it would be a very unnatural experience with which our culture has not prepared them to deal. In my view, they should not be forced into this role because of some misguided notion of inclusiveness or fairness.</p> <p>Ground combat is dirty, savage and terrifying, involving lengthy periods in the field under unimaginably horrible conditions with no toilet facilities or privacy. It is very different from aerial or shipboard combat. Would you be comfortable with the idea of your daughter, granddaughter, wife or mother being drafted and involuntarily assigned to a ground combat role? This could happen if women should be required to register for the draft, as some propose, and compulsory military service were reinstated.</p> <p>If a woman wants to volunteer for such an assignment and meets the qualifications, she should, by all means, be allowed to so serve. Women have as much right as men to suffer and die or be wounded or maimed in the service of their country. And I don't buy the argument that it would destroy the male warrior culture. That culture is changing anyway and today's youth don't really seem to have much problem with change that promotes equality. But I am concerned about forcing young women into a role for which they may not be emotionally prepared; essentially an intensely violent, aggressive one for which most men tend to be better suited than most women.</p> <p>The all-volunteer service concept, in effect now for nearly half a century, has produced a highly professional force. There has been no shortage of volunteers; indeed, there has usually been a surplus.</p> <p>The services are far more technically complex today and the eligibility standards for military service are now so high that probably less than half of the draft-age population would qualify. Moreover, the services would have to be significantly restructured to even accommodate and train large numbers of draftees. At present there is no foreseeable need for massive ground forces to fight large-scale expeditionary wars. While there will always be a potential need for some boots on the ground, they will likely be largely limited to training, logistical and special forces. If volunteers should prove insufficient in some future emergency, male draftees could easily satisfy the shortfalls. If, in some dire future emergency, even more military personnel were needed, the issue could be revisited.</p> <p>Requiring women to register for the draft now, just because men are, would do nothing to enhance military readiness, which is the only reason for a draft in the first place, and it would force many women into a role that most of them are not, by nature or socialization, suited for.</p>
2/25/2019	<p>To Whom it May Concern,</p> <p>The military draft is not a necessary component of national security. But as long as the selective service exists, both women and men should be required to register. As a woman, I feel very strongly that only requiring registration of men is both discriminatory and unwise. Additionally, a federal judge recently ruled the all-male draft unconstitutional. Please remedy this state of affairs.</p>

2/25/2019	<p>Reasons to keep the male-only draft registration in place:• It's not about fairness and equality, it's about winning wars and preserving the USA under the extreme wartime condition that would necessitate a draft• Men, in general, are better suited to the physical rigors of combat• Valuable military resources will be wasted screening out the majority of women who will not meet the physical requirements of combat• Nobody knows how a mixed fighting force will perform against a peer enemy (aka China or Russia) who will almost certainly field an all male force, and a draft will not be needed unless our volunteer force is decimated by such a peer enemy.• Women can get pregnant—either by our own troops, or the enemy's• Unit cohesion and morale are critical on the battlefield and the presence of women introduce a new unknown into the mix• The impact of many wounded and maimed women and mothers on civilian morale and will to win is unknownWomen have been permitted combat roles for reasons of political correctness, not common sense. Political correctness does not win wars. Women should be exempted from selective service registration.</p>
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2/26/2019

Dear Commissioners:

As a young professional who is an avid volunteer in the community, I'd like to share my thoughts on the 2/21 hearing, featuring panelists representing the JVC, the University of Maryland, IBM, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. Thank you for putting together the panel to get different perspectives on how to encourage Americans to serve.

I'd like to warn against requiring mandatory service, however tempting that might be. While in theory, more service hours translate to more public good, requirements are not only tricky to implement, but also detrimental to the spirit of volunteerism that really should be the ultimate goal of your Commission. As a country, we should recognize that service (in all three categories) is more than economic benefit or civic duty--it is also a moral privilege. Those who give are firstly able to give, and in giving their time and money to a cause they believe in, they manifest and multiply that ability to give.

There are ways (as suggested by the panelists) to incentivize community service. Family volunteerism is an important piece--I was fortunate enough to have parents who actively participated in community service and encouraged me to follow suit. Providing parent-child service opportunities would not only empower young parents to be engaged, but also instill in the kids the value of service very early. "Gamifying" service is another one. In today's often overwhelming world of distractions, framing service as something that can be fun for everyone is necessary. If we want to get young people involved, we need them to see that they can do so at the same time they engage their peers. Better civic education is also a prerequisite. If Americans know and trust their institutions better, they can then feel empowered to make a difference through public or military service. A culture of volunteerism cannot be formed by legislation.

One program that I was especially impressed with was IBM's "Corporate Service Corps" as described by Mr. Jeff West. He explained that the group is seen as a kind of "Ivy League" among IBMers, and this sense of "service privilege" attracts and retains talent. This seems to be a great model--to get corporations to understand that empowering employees to serve is good for the firm, the employee, and the community served.

As a young volunteer, I experienced a lot of the same confusion that Mr. West did as a PCV. Many of my peers do not understand why I would "work for free." Activities engaged at our age seem to always have to have a monetary or material payoff. But commitment and the sense of community that volunteering provides are usually both intangible and non-linear. I see the fruits of my labor months or years after an extended commitment.

Volunteerism should be more visible among those who are public servants, corporate titans, and military leaders. If Americans see this leading by example, they will be positively influenced.

Sincerely,

Jerry C.

2/26/2019	<p>Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? I think service has the value of helping other people, that is why things like the peace corps is good. It only helps people. Military service, especially required of unwilling, is detrimental to the view of the profession and the United States as a whole among the public and especially the youth. How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? As a young American (17), I wish there were more clear ways to serve the United States that involved peaceful things such as: rescue work (from natural disasters, crisis), aid, and education. I am interested in areas such as the coast guard because the rescue, not do harm. What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? A huge part of the general unwillingness to join the military among many young people is that we simply do not want to aid in any killing or destruction. Countries around the world have a negative view of the US military because of how it bombs, attacks, and kills- focusing on the target it means to kill instead of civilian safety. Also institutions such as the draft make it especially unappealing to young men. The draft is not an incentive but is instead an institution that causes young men to lose respect for the military. Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? NO. The draft would only be needed if the US were to be threatened on home soil in which case many young people would volunteer (including myself) in order to defend my country. Shipping unwilling soldiers to far corners of the planet for wars they themselves have no interest in and where nations have no interest in them coming is immoral. Wars like a CIVIL war in Vietnam should not have required US troops. So overall in the only situation in which a draft might be needed there would be plenty of volunteers so the draft is not necessary. Not to mention it is anti-feminist and goes against promoting full equality between the sexes. Are modifications to the selective service system needed? It should be abolished or at least require women to sign up as well. Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? Not in the military, but with organizations like the Peace Corps, Teach America, and others, it would be valuable though most likely not feasible. If the US were to invest in this I would recommend measures to prevent climate change as if we all work together that threat (the largest one facing America long term) can be solved.</p>
2/26/2019	<p>Hi. Woman here. I'd like to give my thoughts on the selective service. We cannot continue to call ourselves a "free country" if we force people into war. It's simply a contradiction. Not only this, but when we specifically target men with the draft, we not only undervalue the worth of the lives of young men, but we also incorrectly push the idea that women are all fragile, which is disrespectful to women serving in the military right now. The only feasible response to this is A. Abolish the draft, B. Make the draft voluntary, or C. Include women in the draft. I will not accept to live in a world where we walk over men like this, and treat women in an infantilizing manner. As a woman, I feel it's wrong that I watch my male counterparts potentially being forced into the terrors of war, while I sit comfy and cushy in my home. I, and many others, refuse to be met with inaction on this topic. Thank you for your time, and keep the American citizens in your mind as you make your decision. If you truly support freedom and liberty, you will change the selective service from its current state.</p>

2/26/2019

Dear sirs,I'd like you to consider my opinion on all of the above questions...1. Service does have inherent value. That is... the protection of the United States for America-- not the corporate United States.2. This is not possible--- the wars are no win...designed by corrupt individuals fomenting the evil conflicts ;namely the bankers and those in our own government who feel that human life has no inherent value. The wars are designed for profit and de-population.3. The barriers are corruption , unnecessary loss of life and a hidden agenda to crush life and freedom.4. First of all... our courageous veterans who love their country are treated with abuse, their needs are ignored and for their service , the reward ... poverty , disgraceful medical care, and nothing but hardship; and , you want able-bodied young people to join forces ??? This is despicable !!!!5. No. Those who wish to join should be free to do so. Also, those criminals in jail who enjoy the opportunity to exercise their aggressive natures should exercise their duty to give back to society and serve their country. Those in congress are as dumb as rocks...or are they... Why not find out the purpose of fomenting wars and tragedy???6. What kind of modifications to the selective service system are you talking about ??? Be explicit !. Women - not at all. They cannot do what a male can do !!! You want to loose a battle... put men and women in a fox hole together !!! How stupid !7. No. I will answer in the following way... Our country is being destroyed from without , within , and by traitors to our government who have infiltrated the halls of congress. The protection of our country (The United States for America)... this is the country we need to defend ! A defense system for America could be feasible and valuable. I would propose , (let's take Switzerland for example) , that the citizens only-- (no illegal migrants or other) , be educated in the value of our beautiful Constitution which has made our Republic the envy of the world and be required to defend their lives , their properties and know how to stand up for their country only. Our men should be on their own native shores---not in some forsaken , obscure , distant foreign ces pool.

2/26/2019	<p>As a mother of 3 daughters and the descendants of a long line of decorated veterans, I would like to say that it is entirely unreasonable to continue to implement mandatory selective service registration. Since the govt does not want trans individuals serving, I fail to comprehend how they can force those individuals to register for the draft. We no longer need this selective service. We should</p> <p>Not force anyone to go to war. The last time we did so, we got beat by farmers in the jungles of Vietnam. The best militaries historically have been volunteer only. Since that will never happen, we should instead increase the pay, benefits and appeal of joining our nations armed forces. Not all are cut out for combat; regardless of gender.</p>
2/26/2019	<p>Every eligible person should do a minimum of 2 years. This will provide a basis of the skills people will have if the need arises for a draft. Just for the record I am retired Army after 20 years of service.</p>
2/26/2019	<p>Service in the military should be absolutely voluntary. To suggest otherwise is in direct opposition to the morality and the values of the people of the United States. We are not the slaves of those in positions of wealth and power, to be forced to fight wars we don't believe in. We will have the opportunity to say no. We will have the freedom to choose how we will best serve our nation.</p>
2/26/2019	<p>We have the opportunity either to make Selective Service registration voluntary, or to outright eliminate the draft -- arguably a long-standing violation of the 13th Amendment's prohibition on involuntary servitude in the absence of a crime. And to confront the question: what if the "need" should arise? If the government absolutely cannot find enough loyal Americans to fight in the absence of a draft, then very likely the conflict in question is (as so many) dubious and unjust.</p>
2/26/2019	<p>If women want to be created equal that mean the selective service also. See all the marches around DC and all over the country they want equally. Why fo you have a problem with that. Seem to me they have already made their minds up</p>
2/26/2019	<p>I have long felt that some form of service to the country and community should be a requirement of all Americans. I did mine after high school by joining the USMC but over the years, I am disappointed to see the disconnect young people today have with the greater community.</p> <p>I have also flt that ever since women were found suitable for combat positions, including successfully passing the acclaimed U.S. Army Ranger program, that they should be required to register for Selective Service. As the young men of today seem intent on reducing their levels of physical activity resulting in fewer of them being considered suitable for military service (never mind the other reasons for deferral), young women will need to step up.</p>

2/26/2019	Commissioners, I am reaching out to offer my assistance. I served in the National Guard for just under 27 years, 21 as an Active Guard Reservist. The majority of my full-time service was in recruiting. My team and I enjoyed a great deal of success over an extended period of time. I served in all enlisted leadership positions in a Recruiting Battalion. I have a great knowledge of the challenge's recruiters face in meeting accession goals. In 2016 I started a Military Recruiting Experts LLC, we train recruiters and their leaders on best practices in recruiting and overall sales management. I would be happy to assist your commission in any way you think I may be helpful. You may contact me by phone at [REDACTED] or email: [REDACTED]
2/26/2019	Hello, I'm a 100% combat disabled veteran of Vietnam. In the Marine Corps there we saw very few draftees but the few I worked with seemed as competent as a volunteer. IF WE CHOOSE TO CONTINUE DRAFT REGISTRATION IT SHOULD INCLUDE WOMEN. I THINK THE ISRAEL POSITION IS WHERE WE SHOULD GO. TWO YEARS OF SERVICE REQUIRED OF EVERYONE. NOT JUST TO PREPARE FOR WAR, BUT ALSO TO HELP BUILD UP OUR NATION INTERNALLY. Charles M Cowan (Kentucky)
2/26/2019	This is Ron Bull for I never signed up for the military service out of fear of knowing myself knowing I'd protect any situation and identify the situation and lead the way through that situation! I've finally found my calling as the next president of the United States of America I'm running as an independent! Any reach back to me on this matter would be greatly appreciated for I'm told there is no way when they say you need money for that i know I only need votes ! I'm Ron bull of va and wanted to introduce myself to you I was led ma'am ! Thank you for the intro ! Feel free to respond with concerns to [REDACTED] cause I'm not playing bout #RonBull2020 #IndependenceOnceAndForAll #WorldPeace #WorldThrives I'd look into me see what I've been up to on twitter the real warfront I'm Venezuela!
2/26/2019	I was a Junior in Business Administration when I volunteered for the draft. I was 22 years of age. I volunteered for the draft because I could go in between classes. In October of 1966, I entered the draft. I took my Basic at Fort Knox and my AIT at Fort Jackson, SC. My tour of duty was 15 March 1967 to 15 March 1968. My MOS was 11B40, that is Infantry Light Weapons. Yes, I humped a Ruck Sack in the jungles of South Vietnam. My point is that females should not be in the Combat Arms of the United States of America. There are a lot of jobs in the Military that are not in the Combat Arms. Females cannot do what a male can do. To put a female in a Combat Arms would jepridies the team effort.

2/26/2019	Service is inherently valuable to communities, as well as to those who serve. I am in favor of a one year minimum mandatory service component for youth upon completion of High School or at age 18 if leaving school without a diploma. I would support freedom of choice in how the service is performed. For example, it could be military, Peace Corps, an approved service track program, or in a community agency needing to build capacity (preferably in a community different than where the youth lives). I would encourage that the agency handling the logistics create skills tracks for youth to serve in so that his/her service could translate into work experience in industries with high demand/projected growth by the conclusion of his/her time. However, exceptions for service would need to be allowable due to extreme disability or medical condition, or proof of economic hardship to serve.
2/26/2019	Are modifications to the selective service system needed? This is a veiled way of asking if women should be included in the selective service system. Despite the politically correct thought that a women can do anything a man can, science has shown that that is not true, especially when it comes to physical strength. The point of the draft is to subscript a military force in times of catastrophic circumstances. We need a fighting force that is strong, not one that is politically correct. It is also not a feasible suggestion. If women are added to the draft, what happens when the mother and father are both drafted? Who takes care of any young children at home? A women should not be forced to leave her children to fight in a war if she doesn't want to.
2/26/2019	If any mandatory military or civilian service is considered, it contradicts your website inspire2serve.gov. If the service is going to be mandatory oh, you should rename your website forced2serve.gov. Not very inspiring!
2/26/2019	Mandatory draft won't work in American culture today. The values that allowed it to work formerly are no longer a defining characteristic of the average American family or youth. The increase in disregard for authority and self-seeking concern for one's personal rights at the expense of social responsibility pose a completely different set of generally accepted values than in decades pass. There's too much rebellion and entitlement in today's American culture for this to work well, and people don't trust the motives behind the wars as well. It's just a different day and age that doesn't lend itself to demanding someone to do much of anything self-sacrificing cooperatively let alone go off to war.

2/26/2019	<p>Women should not be able to register for the draft. Fighting wars is a man's job. I went through coed basic training in 1979 at Ft. Dix. On the road marches the Drill Sergeants had some of the women hang on to the men's equipment in order to keep up. I believe coed basic stopped in 1980. I guess it wasn't working out if they stopped it. If you grabbed 100 young men at random and 100 young women at random, whether in the military or not, the women would be vastly inferior in any combat arms situation. I don't believe women should have the same role in society as men. If some kind of public service requirement is instituted then military service should not be mandatory for women. Women and men should be treated differently in society. Sincerely, Brian Powell [REDACTED] Ithaca, NY [REDACTED]</p>
2/26/2019	<p>15 male here I would rather sell crack than my soul and join the military</p>
2/26/2019	<p>Service should be voluntary, it is unpaid (which gives them some actual motivation), and pretty much an equal comparison to having a parent tell you to do chores around the house, there is no reward, and completely under appreciated</p>
2/26/2019	<p>Service should be voluntary, it is unpaid (which gives them some actual motivation), and pretty much an equal comparison to having a parent tell you to do chores around the house, there is no reward, and completely under appreciated</p>
2/26/2019	<p>Are modifications to the selective service system needed? Answer ; Yes, Include women.</p>
2/26/2019	<p>In return for what? The people of this nation owe this corrupted government nothing. You imprison us in masse, torture us in prisons, laugh at our individual rights and liberties, hand our hard earned tax dollars to the wealthy elites that pull the strings to force us into economic servitude already, and now you have the audacity to even consider this nationalistic bullshit mandatory service to enslave our youths to a system that betrays us again and again? Who will be enriched by this? What corrupted scum will profit from our imprisonment and forced servitude? Will you give us free school, free medical care? This is a design to imprison and institutionalize our youth from the beginnings of their lives. From the bottom of my heart GO TO HELL.</p>
2/26/2019	<p>"The Draft" or selective service isn't a popular idea when it comes to the thought of actually having to use it. That being said, I understand the potential need to be able to call upon the American people to join the service in a moment of true need and emergency. With it being 2019 and seeing all the social issues and and messages of equality and understanding, as well as the plea for a overall change in mindset. I think it would only make sense to keep the selective service requirement in place and include both men, woman (or any other "gender") in selective service.</p>
2/26/2019	<p>Women want to be treated as equals and have fought hard for decades to accomplish this goal. They should be given every opportunity that men are given to include the responsibilities men are given when it comes to defending this country. This would of course include registering for the draft and serving in time of need. An added benefit would be a much greater stake in and appreciation of what this country offers all it's citizens. I agree 100% with Judge Miller's ruling - and I have two daughters.</p>

2/27/2019	A draft is clearly UNCONSTITUTIONAL and it's about time those who violate it give up their tyranny and begin to represent the people accordingly.
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2/27/2019	Please abolish the draft, as there is no practical reason for full scale traditional war anymore. Also, a mandatory national service requirement is not needed and is basically modern indentured servitude, which should not be encouraged or allowed. Let us kids have some freedom in our youth. And service is quite valuable, as it brings out the best in those that serve, and helps those being served.
2/27/2019	<p>While conscription may be necessary in times of war, I have to wonder if registration is necessary with modern technology. Surely if a draft was ever necessary it could be conducted without prior registration being necessary.</p> <p>One of the benefits of the previous draft eras was a sense of common experiences that were independent of geographical or social factors. This helped Americans value people that came from different walks of life. In the post-draft era, we've lost that sense of connectedness to our fellow patriots.</p> <p>It would behoove us as a society establish some service expectation for young adults to choose from as they transition into adulthood. It should provide individuals with choices, be it military, religious or social service, so long as it is consistent with the individual's values and interests. This approach would broaden the experiences adults would bring to their post-secondary studies.</p>
2/27/2019	women are already serving in combat roles, it is time to have them treated equally and be part of the selective service system like men.
2/27/2019	Women should be required to register for Selective Service if the system is kept in place. The movement to ensure women's equal place among men everywhere is justified and admirable, but it comes with the not-so-fun parts too. It is sexist to not require women to register.
2/27/2019	The 13th amendment forbids it. Follow the Constitution!!
2/27/2019	The selective service registration should be voluntary for both men and women. No one should be forced to register. Education regarding military and public service should be increased.
2/27/2019	1. Would not increase Americans desire to serve as they would be forced against their will2. Military standards would likely have to be reduced or eliminated which is problematic. Could not enforce height and weight standards for example or medical clearance3. Other military standards such as dependency, credit issues, etc.4. Peace Corps type programs may require language training that people could refuse 5. Individuals forced to serve would not have same motivation and dedication as volunteers6. Selective Service is at the stage that it should include women

2/27/2019	<p>Ref. The recent court ruling declaring the requirement to register for the draft for men but not women.</p> <p>This is an equal rights issue. Women have an equal right to be placed in harms way as do men. They should be required to register for the draft since they enjoy the same freedoms as men do.</p> <p>Richard Ready Shawano, WI</p>
2/27/2019	<p>Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security?</p> <p>My contention is "Yes", it is necessary to have a contingency for calling up personnel during times of national crisis. Further, my recommendation is to change the model to one of volunteerism, in which young men and women, high school graduates or 18 years old, would volunteer, under a contract, to make themselves available for call-up for a specified period of years. This way, DoD can plan the number of pers they need to track, and as new, younger volunteers come on the rolls, older participants can be rolled off. Additionally, those pers on the roll can be tracked for education and training that can be used to determine suitability in different job skills. DoD could also perform initial background checks on these volunteers well before they would actually be needed in times of crisis. This tracking and background check could also be used as a recruiting tool, to target those people with interest in the military that have or are getting the skills and education DoD is looking for in it's new members. Obviously, any selective volunteer who decides to join the reserve or active forces would be released from their selective volunteer contract. Running this program concurrently with the current selective service program for 3-5 years would give you a pretty good idea as to whether DoD would capture enough volunteers without imposing the universal sign-up as it now operates. Maybe even sweeten the deal by tying the selective volunteer program to some education or training benefits paid by the government....?</p> <p>John L. Reddick, Chief Petty Officer, USN (ret).</p>
2/27/2019	<p>Selective Service should be similar to Israel's, every person male and female should be drafted for a period of a minimum of 3 yrs, 2 yrs is not enough time for the military to get any training the draftee receives. A young person 18 yrs. old doesn't have any idea about life and what they want to do with their life, they enroll in college and spend the first 2 yrs. partying and wasting their time and money on easy classes that will not mean anything in their life. After completing a tour of duty in the military they will have matured enough to have a good idea of what schooling they want to take and the kind of career they want. They may even like the military and decide that's what they want to do for a career. After 3.5 yrs. in the US Marine Corps I re-enlisted, unexpected family matters prevented me from remaining for a career, but I liked it enough at the time to re-enlist and would have made a career out of being a Marine.</p>
2/28/2019	<p>This proposal is simply following the rhetoric and law of Nazi Germany. It is a gross overreaching of Government Power on the citizens of the United States. Should this become law, people will revolt against it, and there may be bloodshed. To even remotely consider this, shows that America is falling.</p>

2/28/2019	<p>The following are opinions of an individual citizen, to whom they may concern for the course of better our mostly proud and comparatively free country.Q: Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? - Begrudgingly, I must say "yes". I believe the draft has been used to ill effect, in such courses as Vietnam, but It cannot be understated that had we not intervened in WW2 with a quickly acquired conscription service, the outcome of that immense and tragic conflict might have led to much greater losses in our own allies and possibly no one rescued for the camps our GIs found. Even factoring the wasted lives called up under conscription, I believe that overall the Draft concept has been a reluctant net gain. As an aside, how we can justify the Draft and the 13th Amendment in conjunction, is another discussion altogether.Q: Are modifications to the selective service system needed? -Unhesitatingly, yes. Women have had the right, nay, the privilege of voting in US elections since 1920. Men have had the right to vote since the beginning of the country. Although I believe we were late giving voting access to women and minorities, women remain the only section of the population with the privilege of voting, while the men of the population remain able to access the right to vote only if they register with nothing less than their lives. This current practice is wholly unfair as it either belittles men into being the disposable social/legal class, OR it belittles women into being considered of lesser mental or physical prowess and incompetent of performing duties related to service.Q:Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? -One at a time. Necessary, yes, as stated above. Although I'm strongly against immoral or unfeasible wars, sometimes wars are necessary and moral. Sometimes, very rarely, acceptable losses of 50%, as was Operation Overlord, are the only moral option, and require conscription. Is it valuable? As a natural born citizen? No. It is, if anything, a deterrent. One is required to sign up, whether one votes or not. In a society similar to that envision by Heinlein, there is a clear and obvious benefit. But in our current arrangement, it is not valuable to natural born citizen outside of purely emotional reasons. Feasible? Yes, to a degree. But just as people rebelled during the Vietnam "Conflict" by getting student exemptions, as long as there are exemptions that are 'obtainable', some people will slip through. Now, reasonably, would even 5% less available people in the draft matter? Most likely not. But if the so-described "Trans-Gender Ban" is exactly as it sounds, I'm doubly sure that many a persons will discover that they are Trans, should another Vietnam arise. Again, these are only my opinions. I do not claim moral or intellectual superiority, I only offer what I consider sound observations.</p>
2/28/2019	<p>I support Selective Service, or some way to register young people for service. I support adding women - they are capable and have much to offer and should also support our country in time of need. I think mandatory service for all young people would be a benefit to them and our country. J Graves, Leesburg VA.</p>

2/28/2019	<p>Expand National service programs. As an Alum of both Peace Corps and AmeriCorps VISTA. Please enhance and expand public service offerings. The experience I gained in those programs got me to where I am today. I now own a home and have a steady income and those programs helped jumpstart my career.</p> <p>Offering a fellowship to 18-year-olds who want to serve, covering their living stipend and post-service award for a year of national service at any approved not-for-profit organization. More people need to know about this program and benefits speak for themselves.</p> <p>My wife and I lived on food stamps while service our country in the nation's capital. Increasing the living stipend for those who participate in national service programs is critically important.</p> <p>Exempting the existing education award from income tax or allow it to be used for other purposes. Because of this my wife and I owed the government \$2000 when taxes came around it almost sent me into financial ruin.</p>
2/28/2019	<p>I believe that service does have an inherent value, especially community service. I would like to see modifications in encouragement for non-military service, such as AmeriCorps. I think making academic financial aid for those who serve their country in whatever capacity should be increased and that such aid should be the same for military and non-military service positions. Mandatory service should be in place, with all young people having the option to serve in military or non-military positions. And it is only an option if the benefits are the same whether military or non-military service. Barring mandatory service, the way to increase participation would be to pay better and to increase benefits during and after service. Currently, young people in the military qualify for food stamps because the pay is so low. And the pay for alternative service programs is abysmal. The barriers to service are, therefore, primarily financial. Another barrier might be inadequate arrangements for people who have children. I have son who participated in AmeriCorps and close friends who participated in VISTA. I think these are both fantastic programs but funding for them has been cut. There should be more funding for these programs and more post-service benefits. If, for example, military veterans and alternative service veterans were guaranteed four years of college at a community college and/or public university, I think you would see a lot more young people volunteering. Another type of alternative service would be one in which a young person would learn a trade from a trade school while serving. For example, a person could learn to build houses by volunteering with Habitat for Humanity. She could also learn to be a chef by cooking for a military base or an airplane mechanic by working on airplanes. (This one would save the military money because they would not be contracting out to for-profit corporations for those services.)</p>

2/28/2019	<p>As someone who was interested in serving outside of the US after college, it was exciting to hear about programs where I could serve domestically. The two year experience brought me networking opportunities, work experience, and an opportunity to move to a new place and build roots. The Education Award helped me become debt free from college (something I was pretty stressed out about after college) and an opportunity to continue and fund my education while working currently. I would have preferred to have the Award not subjected to taxes because it made filing taxes more complicated.</p> <p>I gained valuable skills that have helped me become confident in developing new ventures and supported non-profits that needed capacity building. I think every young person before college or after should participate in service because the experience changed the way I wanted to lead my life and how I lead my work. The only stressor during the service experience was the stipend amount. I received more than some of my other service counterparts and while they loved what they did during the service year, they were stressed about how to pay their rent (my friends did their service in NYC) and that took away from their work. The service experience should at least help to find housing if the stipend is going to remain low.</p>
2/28/2019	<p>National service is of incredible value to marginalized communities in the United States. As part of a nonprofit organization, we have been able to reach some of the most vulnerable individuals with disabilities in our community through leveraging the skills and time of individuals engaged in national service. We have also seen those who choose to serve increase their job skills and experience in order to better reach their own career goals. The U.S. could increase the desire for participation in national service through offering healthcare benefits to all service members, as well as increasing living stipends and other monetary benefits (education awards, etc.). Many of the individuals who would like to participate in national service but are unable to state that their primary barriers are related to healthcare availability and income.</p>
2/28/2019	<p>I favor public service but only on a voluntary basis. We must provide young people with monetary support to do this service. We still need the draft, but we need to also give good salaries to the military.</p> <p>The major impediment to any service is that it interrupts a person's education and life, etc. So to given them monetary support would help encourage service.</p>
2/28/2019	<p>I strongly support the formation of a public service requirement for every American citizen. It can be in various forms, including military service, volunteering in low-income neighborhoods to feed the hungry, say by collecting unused prepared food items collected from area restaurants and delivering them to food banks, homeless shelters, etc. The service period can be as little as one year but not less than 8 months. It should be required early in life, say directly after high school or college, when people are less likely to have binding obligations. This service will impress on all participants a need to "give back" to our country and remind us how fortunate we are to live in the U. S.</p>

2/28/2019	<p>As a NCCC FEMA Corps Alum and a current VISTA member, I feel very strongly that the living allowance needs to be at least equal to minimum wage and that the education award should not be taxed.</p> <p>I come in contact with a lot of individuals who are interested in the opportunity but cannot commit to a year of service because they have bills to pay and truly cannot survive on the small living allowance. Instead of this being a great opportunity for people of all backgrounds and cultures to dedicate a year to national service and ultimately receive money to put towards education, I think the status quo limits the applicants to people of a certain privilege who are able to supplement somehow. I do believe if some of the core items that are listed above were to change, the volume of interested applicants were increase astronomically.</p> <p>This has been one of the most eye opening opportunities I have ever experienced. I can confidently say that I have learned more in my 2 years of service than I did in my 4 years of college. I want everyone to learn about what goes on in the country and what we can do to make change.</p>
2/28/2019	<p>I think it would be great if the education award was not taxed, and was available to be used for any kind of educational endeavor- becoming certified to teach English as a foreign language, for example, or travel to another country for an immersion experience or to volunteer. I have learned at least as much traveling and volunteering as I have in classrooms.</p>
2/28/2019	<p>As an AmeriCorps Alum, I believe that service has inherent value to the general public who benefit from the services provided as well as to the service members whether they are abroad or in the US. The US should increase the desire for Americans, particular young Americans, to serve by showcasing how service benefits us all. However, the government needs to remove the financial barrier that prevents people from participating in military, national, and public service. Service professions are not as financially prestigious as some other fields such as careers available in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). The US can increase participation in service by increasing the financial incentives for service roles. We need to make sure service roles are filled by individuals with critical skills to address national security and other public services needs of the US. While mandatory service requirements, military draft, draft contingency, and selective service would be efficient in increasing the number of Americans who participate in service, such requirements are not feasible. Also, we need to focus on recruiting Americans who believe in serving the country to fill service positions.</p>

2/28/2019	<p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment on national/public service, and universal access/ability to serve in particular.</p> <p>I did not do any sort of sustained, organized service work after college because I could not afford not to be working for pay. I <u>did</u> have such an opportunity in college and in my first two years, instead of doing some menial campus job, received work-study wages for helping build houses with Habitat for Humanity, through the Bonner Scholars program at Oberlin College. I wish I could've continued doing such things after undergrad.</p> <p>Please ensure that national service programs offer living wages to participants. Even those that do offer stipends often do not provide enough to both pay rent and buy food, let alone pay down school loans, especially if you are married (or, god forbid, a parent) and trying to contribute to your family as well as your community.</p> <p>Thank you, again, for this opportunity to comment.</p>
2/28/2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If it isn't too trite a phrase, service provides "skin in the game." 2. The GI Bill for those who serve in the military; college loan repayment assistance for those who serve after college. 3. Physical and mental impairments, which can be accommodated. 4. Medical professionals who agree to serve in areas of our country which are underserved could receive loan forgiveness. 5. Yes. 6. Yes. Women should be required to register. 7. Yes.

2/28/2019	<p>As a National Service alum, I am incredibly excited about the work of this Commission and enjoyed reading the preliminary report.</p> <p>I hope the final report expands upon the barriers to service and includes policy recommendations to address the hardships many public servants face. Although I gained so much in my two years of national service as an AmeriCorps VISTA and an AmeriCorps NCCC team leader, the financial, emotional, and physical hardships I experienced during these years continue to impact my life.</p> <p>I also ask you to reconsider the choice of this commission to not pay your interns. To ask interns to dedicate a minimum of 20 hours a week for no pay is an almost insurmountable barrier for the vast majority early career Americans. I'm currently enrolled in a Master's in Leadership and Public Service program and looking for an internship, but interning for the Commission is not possible without pay. Unpaid internships seem contrary to the mission of this Commission and hinder diversity in background, experience, and talent within your internship program.</p> <p>Thank you for the work you are doing, I look forward to reading your full report and seeing the results of this Commission.</p>
2/28/2019	<p>Even though I grew up in Tulsa, OK, my service years gave me such a deeper and broader understanding of the challenges as well as the resources our many communities have. I definitely grew in my level of commitment to my local community, and in doing that, my identity as an American citizen. I feel much more confident in approaching issues of importance, particularly education. I didn't set out to join AmeriCorps directly, but rather found the opportunity as I was job seeking after I graduated with my Bachelor's. I was a returning student, having taken a few years away to serve through my church and sort of find my purpose. I think if I had known about AmeriCorps when I was a senior in high school, I would have considered that even at that time. So many high school students have no idea what they want to do as a career, and end up going on to college without a clear purpose, often squandering their time, or at the very least incurring a huge amount of debt that they have no concept of how difficult it will be to repay. This is a dire problem for my generation who are struggling to buy homes and putting off having kids because of debt. Many progressives want to provide free tuition, but I don't think that is feasible, and I don't think it would solve the problem of aimlessness that many young people face. I've said it again and again, I don't understand why mandatory service isn't a part of that conversation. Yes, pay for people's college, but do so after a certain amount of service time. The Segal Ed. Award paid off the debt I had (albeit with a HEFTY tax fee) and I am very grateful. I think if we expanded AmeriCorps opportunities and made it to where people could get free tuition at state schools or an equivalent grant for out of state / private schools, that would be phenomenal. We could do so much good in communities across the nation, give some valuable work experience to young people in fields that matter to them, train them with leadership skills and help them to feel proud to be an American. I would be a champion for mandatory service. Our community benefits hugely from the various AmeriCorps programs here. Entire organizations have built their structure around service members. I've had Senior Corps members volunteer for organizations where I work as well. I think it serves a great need for purpose, belonging, and training for young and old alike. But even if that is too lofty a goal for now, I at least think we must make the education award tax free. It places such a burden on</p>

	<p>folks who use it after living on so little for so long, that some people are afraid to use it at all. Thank you so much for your time and consideration, and I hope to see the continued expansion of AmeriCorps and eventually mandatory service for all, with the benefit of free public university education.</p>
2/28/2019	<p>I completed two years of AmeriCorps when I wanted to break into the nonprofit field. I do believe the experience was valuable and it has allowed me to pursue other opportunities within the nonprofit field after I finished my service. Here are my thoughts on the proposed changes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The service does have inherent value but I think that's also very dependent on the service site. Nonprofits who request service members should be thoroughly vetted and the job descriptions should be reviewed every year by someone outside of the organization. 2. Those who serve are generally privileged and come from families who can afford to support them during their service. When I was completing my service year, everyone either received money from their families or lived with them for free. This makes it impossible for people from low-income backgrounds who often need to support themselves and additional family members to serve on the small stipend we were given each month. If you want to attract more people to service, find a way to give them more money. 3. In addition to income barriers, people may not be selected for service by individual organizations because they don't fit the demographic they're trying to reach. Make sure that all service providers are committed to diversity, and give opportunities to individuals who may not have had the means to go to college. 4. Service should absolutely NOT be mandatory for Americans. Forced service is never appreciated by those serving or by those being served. Those who can and choose to commit 10-12 months to service tend to be passionate and engaged. Forcing people to serve would dilute that enthusiasm and it would be seen as another requirement rather than an important choice.

	<p>5. I can't speak with how to get more people involved in national security specifically, but i do believe there is a lot of untapped talent in underserved communities where students simply don't have the financial resources to explore their career interests or options. Investing in those students with great potential and giving them the resources they need would go a long way towards getting people interested and involved in the needs of the nation.</p>
2/28/2019	<p>1. I served 1 year as Americorps. The experience was great, but when all is said and done, I paid out thousands of dollars for the money paid on my student loan interest and money received for scholarships. When all is totaled, I paid the entirety of the 5000 dollar scholarship out in taxes. It was more of a burden than it was worth. Only receiving 12,000 for a service year then stating that you get an extra 5,000. Its really a very dishonest angle when you don't include the burden caused by taxes. Otherwise, I would recommend people to do service years.</p> <p>7. I think it would make a lot of sense and be very beneficial to our country for it to be a requirement for every person to serve for the first 6 months after high school graduation. By serve, they should either serve in the armed forces division or in non profit like peacecorps or americorps. There could be a waiver for people who go to college, but after college graduation, must serve armed forces or non-profit for 6 months. This would remove much of the financial burden from having to pay veterans. It would be easier to identify people equipped to deal with difficult situations, and it would help to end this and following generations sense of entitlement that Americans seem to latch onto.</p> <p>Sorry i didn't answer more. I don't have many characters left. 1 was an answer to several though.</p>

3/1/2019	<p>I am both an Americorps alumni, and a member of the Army National Guard.I only have comments on the following:2. Expand the benefits of civilian means of service, military benefits are fantastic and it is a shame that those with physical or mental barriers are locked out. Perhaps even create a day of appreciation similar to Veteran's day for members of Americorps, Peace Corps, ect. 3. Many people do not even know there are non military ways to serve thier country. If they knew, and there was similar cultural appreciation and honor involved people would be more likely to serve. 5. Yes6. Allow women to register.7. Yes, but only if not military means of serving are expanding. A lot of people do not qualify for military service due to physical or mental limitations. These people should be made more aware of civilian means of national service such as Americorps.</p>
3/1/2019	<p>1. I have no strong feelings one way or another whether public service should be voluntary or mandatory: service is incredibly valuable and I think it should be encouraged that all citizens either commit to military or public service for 1-2 years but not penalized in anyway for choosing not to.</p> <p>2. make all forms of public service equal. This will encourage more people to serve in some capacity. Americorps is still given little recognition depending on what TYPE of service you complete: I did not receive any non-competitive status for jobs post-service like Peace Corps and Vista volunteers and my "living stipend" was so small that even when including the education award and, in some cases, "free" housing, I only made about \$2-4/hour. I am still barely breaking the poverty level despite my service and I was unable to build much of a savings.</p> <p>3. Education awards are taxed. This is ludicrous. It's a scholarship being used to directly pay for school or student loans. There should be no tax, this is not income. Does the GI bill get taxed? Military service also gives you a pay check. It's not a big pay check but it's still a pay check, not a "living stipend."</p> <p>4. I don't think we need Selective Service at all. Or make it legitimately voluntary. Or, if all citizens must register, leave it to 18-28 year olds and then don't require people to file proof that they entered the paperwork after age 28. It's an outdated system that needs to be revamped but it also just creates one more piece of bureaucratic paperwork to waste time checking for every job you apply to.</p>

3/1/2019	<p>BACKGROUND: I am currently a US English and History teacher. Those who don't learn from the past are doomed to repeat it. I support the idea of a national unifying factor, like COMMUNITY service - I don't think that factor should be mandatory. The repercussions of the Vietnam War are still haunting our society in the form of homelessness, mental health, disenfranchisement, and disillusionment. Yet factions of our society approach war with a pre- WWII glee. I dream of a world where we do not need the military. It scares me that the greatest military force IN THE WORLD is even talking about returning to a policy that shattered a generation. I found great value in my years of service, but they were difficult, grueling and not for everyone- many members of my corps year dropped out. It's not for everyone and it shouldn't be for everyone- it can really mess up the wrong kind of person, and that kind of person has to live in society with us. This is the LAND of the FREE. Mandatory ANYTHING violates the principles of the United States of America.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No. Service does not have inherent value. Service has value based on this individual and the circumstances. It had value for me, but I chose it. For some (like my father, who was drafted into the Vietnam), service has an extremely negative impact. 2. In Israel, military threats from surrounding hostile nations create a sense of national unity and the young people expect to serve. Nationalism and tangible threats unify Israeli youth in national service. We should be incredibly grateful that we don't face immediate threats of danger from hostile nations in our daily American lives. I think a fear based society is one we should not strive for. I'm glad national service is voluntary, and I hope we are never in Israel's position. 3. The reality of dying, PTSD, or life- changing experiences are huge barriers to participation. My personal fundamental beliefs about war and the military are a barrier to my participation. Again, we should be thankful to have a peaceful state of affairs in the US, and I truly am. If anything, I think voluntary military and public service should be MORE incentive, and veterans should receive housing and health services comparable to the ones they received in service. 4. You can focus more on public service needs of the nation, which affects all of us, over participation in the military, which affects politicians. Learn from Vietnam. 5. NO. And a world where it is is a world we need to work on. 6. I think it works pretty well. Modifications are not needed. I know a good number of happy people in the military and a good number who are happily not. 7. Nothing mandatory is necessary, valuable or feasible. If the government wants to use some of the defense budget on marketing encouraging people to sign up for national service, I would 100% support that. If the government wants to make national service MANDATORY, I 100% oppose.
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3/1/2019	<p>Dear Friends:I am writing this letter in support of the continuation of a National Service being available for all young adults both male and female. I have served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Nepal (1970 - 1973) and in Costa Rica (2014 - 2016). I am a firm believer that such overseas service not only provided a valuable service to these countries, afforded the villagers the opportunity to share their culture with me and my culture from the USA with them , but a mind opening and compassionate perspective of my brothers and sisters who often struggled with poverty, lack of education, poor health , and little opportunity for advancement. The compassion and understanding of others different from myself, that I took home from my experience as a PCV, was carried forward into my career as a clinical psychologist and as a youth volunteer within my community of Fort Collins , Colorado. No advanced degree could have ever changed my mind or opened my eyes to the greater world like this volunteer service.I firmly believe that a mandatory service supported by the Federal Government for all young men and women in the military or in public service to others at home or in other countries for at least one year would be invaluable for them and would transform our country into a more compassionate and open minded community. A Selective Service organization needs to be more open to accepting men and women and the LGBTQ community, as well as, informing of options for Conscientious Objectors and others who do not want to bare arms in a military conflict because of ethical , moral, or spiritual beliefs.I suggest that all those who are in service in the military or in public service should be given subsistence allowance commiserate with their assignment during their first year of service, as well as , a post service adjustment allowance to assist them in returning to school for further education and/ or time to find a job and a place to live. Trade schools and colleges should work in coordination with the Federal Government to make advanced education available and affordable to all those who have served in at least one year of national service.Public service not only benefits the recipients but also those that serve and the communities in which they live. In peace,Francis Gaebler [REDACTED] Fort Collins, CO [REDACTED]</p>
3/1/2019	Don't tax the stipend/educational award.
3/1/2019	I love the option of national service, military and public service. I did both military and national service. These programs are great way for young people to get out in the world from any background. It allows you to make friends across the country and sometimes leave that stagnet life you have back home. Please keep these programs. One of the biggest things I enjoyed was my food and housing was always paid for. It let me not worry about the logistics of how I was going to live.
3/1/2019	Service has inherent value in the sense of shared experience make some type of national service mandatory Reinstate the draft with other service options

3/1/2019	<p>I am in favor of having women 18-25 register for the draft. Considering that the military has been accepting women in the services, and are now allowed in combatant roles, it is no more than fair for women to be considered for the draft. Having spent 20 years active duty in the Navy, I witnessed the integration of women into shipboard duty. It was my experience that women were more than capable of performing the assigned tasks, sometimes better than their male counterparts. Because women fought for the right to serve, they too should be subject to draft in a time when the draft is required. I am also in favor of Mandatory service for all High School Graduates for a period of 6 years along the same lines as Reserve enlistments for a period of Two (2) years Active Duty and Four (4) years in the Ready Reserve. Recently there was a report that outlined a Manning Shortfall to meet the 350 ship Navy. Not to mention that recent incidents aboard Naval Vessels have indicated that current manning levels are insufficient for safe and prudent operation. By instituting mandatory service these shortfalls could be better managed. Additionally it would provide sailors with training that would make them more a more valuable asset. Mandatory service would also help keep the need for utilizing the draft to a minimum. It is time to stop the current wave of cutting the manning aboard war ships, it has degraded the ability of our fighting ships, and degraded the ability of the crews to "Fight Their Ships" when emergencies arise. A ship that is "dead in the water" because of casualties in a wartime scenario is no more than a "Target". With sufficient manning of qualified sailors a ship has a much better chance of surviving an attack. I served aboard a number of ships during my career which spanned from the time just before the signing of the cease fire during Vietnam until after the end of the first Gulf War. I learned the importance of being able to fight a ship and what proper training does to prepare a sailor for that mission. I saw the Navy drawn down to almost ruins after Vietnam and witnessed its rebuilding during the Reagan years, and unfortunately I saw it drawn down again after the fall of the Berlin wall which we were ensured would never happen during the Clinton years. And from what I have been reading and seeing happen since my retirement, has not left me with a "warm fuzzy" feeling for what the future holds. It is time for a change. Let's make the Navy Great Again.</p>
3/1/2019	<p>The biggest barrier to more participation in service programs is without a doubt the stipend. From experience, the stipend is simply not enough to entice people to serve. With the time commitment and low pay, it is necessary to work a second job without the time to do so.</p> <p>Service jobs are absolutely necessary to helping important social issues throughout the entire country. There are so many young people wanting and capable of helping and truly making a difference in their communities.</p> <p>My 1.5 years of service was a springboard to launch my career and I'm very appreciative to have had the experience. I wish the stipend wasn't a deterrent for other young people to do the same.</p>
3/1/2019	<p>Some sort of national service would be welcome, since for those not going immediately to college, they would have an avenue of at least some work experience. And, if such a thing is required, future presidents would have to show such. As it is, the last four presidents never served in the military, yet they're the ones, along with many in Congress, who bring us to war.</p>

3/1/2019	Speaking as a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer I would say that service has immense value for citizens. A major problem we are facing within this country is a lack of commitment in government and society. Service helps bring into focus the good that comes from active participation in government. What I would recommend is the reestablishment of civics in high school as a graduation requirement. Also to replicate Maryland's model of community service hours as a graduation requirement. This will help inform students of their role in society and give a platform for all service branches to present information about their opportunities. This will also begin to create a social shift to equating civil and public service on the same level of military service as equally important. We have days and weeks celebrating the military but have no such comparable celebration when it comes to other forms of service. Once we establish that equality then there should be equal financial compensation so people of lesser means are able to participate in any form of service they choose. That is a criticism I've heard from others that low-income people choose military service because of the financial benefits. The financial benefits of other types of service pale in comparison. Also eliminating education criteria from organizations like Peace Corps and Ameri Corps will also open up these opportunities to a greater variety of individuals. I did not find that a college degree was required to complete my service and it seems classist to insist that one is required. Implementing these changes will fix other problems within the system.
3/1/2019	National service should NOT be mandatory in a 'land of the free' but it should be made attractive so kids out of high school will have an alternative to the military or flipping burgers. NOT that I expect to see anything rational under an insane president.
3/1/2019	<p>1. I feel that there is value in service to our country or community. This is my 3rd year with Americorps in Tulsa working with Reading Partners. I'm at retirement age but have watched several young people come and go at Reading Partners. I've watched them gain skills that will transfer to work after service. They now have a better understanding of the agencies in our community. Post service there is an education stipend to further their education. It would really help to not have the stipend taxed as it does creates a burden and some people may not use the stipend. The tax has really hurt me on my taxes this year and I was paying extra tax each month.</p> <p>5. I would like to see the possibility of draft go away. I believe that incentives to join the military be it monetary or education opportunities will help have a more motivated military force.</p> <p>7. I believe that a year of service between high school and college or tech school would be beneficial for most young people. It would give them the chance to travel and have some new experiences before college. They may be more motivated to continue their education or they may find a vocation that they had never thought about all the learning the value of giving back to the community.</p>
3/1/2019	I believe service is a great opportunity for young people to explore their interests and work on their skills before beginning their professional lives. The job market is so tight, being of service is a great way to explore opportunities without the pressure of "my first job". There are things I would have loved to explore when I was just out of college or high school - but at that time they were all unpaid internships or so low paying I had to have a paying job as well. I quit a great internship because in addition to that job I

	also had another job to pay for it - it was too much. Giving young people a chance to work in their communities and hone their skills is crucial.
3/1/2019	who has time?most Americans are working multiple jobs,or very long hours just to make rent.the quality of life in this country has decreased since the 70s.the suicide rate has risen,and life expectancy has dropped.we need cultural shift away from G.D.P.,witch with automation,will continue to rise,even as poverty increases.we need the freedom dividend proposed by 2020 presidential candidate Andrew Yang.
3/1/2019	<p>I wish we could make service mandatory, but I worry about that because whenever something becomes mandatory, then people don't want to do it any more. So it's better to provide incentives.</p> <p>Two examples of effective incentives in exchange for service are: (1) college tuition credits (2) low-interest mortgage loans and/or car loans after the completion of service. I recall stories from my uncle about how valuable the free education was after he served in the military, and stories from my dad about how hugely a VA loan for his first house helped him to get his life going.</p> <p>The value of service in my life has been immense. I served as a VISTA volunteer program in a juvenile delinquency prevention program. I learned so much from the in-service training I received. It gave me a year to think more about what I wanted to do with my life. It was a fun adventure! and best of all, I had the internal rewards of helping several kids. It was the best year of my life, for sure.</p> <p>I suggest advertising through high school and college counselors. Play up the adventure part of the package, along with the monetary incentives. Have stories from past participants about how cool it is. I don't recommend spending lots of money on making this accessible. That doesn't give much bang for the buck. Start out getting the program going with kids who don't need expensive accommodations.</p>
3/1/2019	A military draft is at its core simply a form of abortion. Who gets aborted begins with the draft as a lottery. The only solution to the current dilemma about who serves is an all volunteer military in which the country commits to the HIGHEST support of those who choose to serve in the military. That means a VA and, say, education benefits that befit the service the military is giving. No more no less. A wounded warrior charity is an insult. There should be no reason for one to exist.

3/2/2019	Service has immense value. It directed me towards my current social work career, working with inner-city youth to improve their educational and mental health outcomes. It grounded me with real-world experience around education and poverty alleviation, which has made me more generous and effective in working with low-income populations. It has also helped me understand the systems and structures that often serve as barriers to low-income students, which has helped me work to respond more effectively to those barriers. Continuing to offer financial incentives for people to serve is a powerful motivator, especially an education award. That award not only helped me pay off undergraduate loans, but it helped me afford graduate school as well.
3/2/2019	<p>6. Are modifications to the selective service system needed?</p> <p>A: Women are not dying in war at the same ratio to men as their ratio is to men in the general population. This discrepancy needs to be rectified. We need more representation of women in wartime fatalities. It is their path to full respect. End the War Death Gap. If they end mandatory registration for men just because they see it coming that women also would have to register, this will always be held against women. ALWAYS, for the rest of history. Not only will it be viewed that women only label each other as brave in society until real courage is required, but that those in power still decide that women are less than men and thus ended registration as a smokescreen for that decision, sending a signal to all of society how to classify women. Ladies, you don't need that monkey forever on your back.</p>
3/2/2019	inherent value of national service provides an experience that continues throughout person's life - to serve, to help, to be engaged in community. Initial incentives to service reinforce this value such an education award. Barriers to service: lack of child care, lack of health insurance, student debt. Education is one of the greatest needs in our country, especially of the under served, vulnerable populations. I am not familiar with selective service or modifications needed. I am ambivalent for mandatory service. Voluntary services leaves a person more open to experiences and life-changing realities; mandatory might thwart that viewpoint.
3/3/2019	I am against women in active duty. I also think women should never be drafted, most women do not want to be put in this position, they are taking care of families at home. The role of men and women are different and should be. Service in the military should be volunteer not mandatory, the exception would be in time of war when needed. That is the way it has always been and should be. Thank you, G N. Larned, Ks
3/3/2019	You can increase the desire to serve by offering more incentives, stressing the need for helping the community, show how positive measures can and will be used to help the community, and reaching out to more Americans. I don't think many Americans see it as an option because not all of them know about this service. Damita L.
3/3/2019	Women shouldn't be required to sign up for the draft. Not all women want to be men. There are a few very vocal ones who do and think they are just as strong and capable at all things as men. Women are powerful and are extremely important but they aren't as physically big and strong as men and they are at higher risk of being molested and abused. This is not what we should

	want for women. If they want to sign up for the draft fine but it should not be a requirement. I hate that a few vocal feminists loud mouths have to sway the entire view of political movements.
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3/3/2019	I think the time has come for women to serve in the draft #me2. Women are given every opportunity in high school and college to compete in competitive sports yet men are not. 25 boys were cut my sons freshman year from soccer. No cuts for girls. 20 boys were cut from a middle school basketball team no girls were cut during that time. Girls were required to play multiple teams do to lack of players and boys were forced to sit in the stands and watch. In its current state collegiate women athletes are not required to register but boys cut from Teams at a very young age are. If we truly want the best pool of talent serving our country all 18 year olds should be required to register. It is also discrimination that boys cannot get financial aid if they do not register but girls can. Make is simple register for selective service and vote at the same time. Problem solved. The physical requirements for girls to serve in service academy's is also lowered which makes it easier for women who have the same physical attributes as a man to get in thank you for allowing me to voice my opinions.
3/3/2019	Yes there certainly is value to volunteering In RSVP our volunteers stay healthy through volunteering. They feel valued and expand their knowledge thru classes and inter-action with RSVP programs and monthly meetings. In helping homebound seniors, volunteers are rewarded by giving to others and "paying it forward" in hope to stay healthy themselves. Dementia is a huge concern for seniors and volunteers keep their minds healthy and alert through service. All come with talents and past experiences, and work-related experiences to share their knowledge

3/4/19

Comments to the Initial Draft Report of the National Commission on
Military, National, and Public Service
by
Bill Basl
VISTA Volunteer 1970-72
National AmeriCorps Director 2012-16
February 19, 2019

I appreciated the comments offered by Chairman Dr. Joseph Heck at the Voices for National Service reception on February 12, 2019. His remarks prompted me to offer comments to the initial report offered by the Commission.

When We Serve

While the report has a young adult service focus, that orientation only applies to military service. I continually was amazed in my visits to AmeriCorps locations, that older individuals often said that they wish they could serve. In fact they can serve, as there are no upper age limits for those who want to serve in AmeriCorps. Promoting service to those over 55 is a priority in the national service law, yet we continually fell short of making a meaningful effort to enroll those individuals in national service even with the ability of giving their education award to a child or grandchild. People in this country, especially now, are eager to serve. Let's enable them to share their wisdom and skills with young adults who together make a powerful and gifted team.

Civic Education

Respected leaders in the country have found that civic education especially in the high school curriculum, is hard to find these days. Many states and local school districts have focused on this need and national leaders have pointed out the need now for a renewed effort to prioritize civic education. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor has been a passionate leader speaking on behalf of the need for civics as part of a meaningful high school education. Last year the Washington State Legislature passed RCW 28A.300.485 which requires each high school in the state to have a standalone civics education class requirement for every student. Model classes are being implemented in two school districts that have substantial enrolment of diverse students. Engaging students to serve is a highly effective way to get them involved in the community and the placing Learn and Serve funding back into the CNCS budget would assist in supporting civic education.

National Military Service and National Civilian Service- A Pathway to Citizenship for Dreamers

National military service offers a pathway for non citizens to obtain citizenship via their service to country. Those who were brought to our country as minor children and want to become citizens could do so by serving their country of residence via a long term commitment to national service thru AmeriCorps. While the national immigration laws are being discussed, language

should be inserted in draft legislation that enables "dreamers" to be placed on a pathway to earn citizenship by serving two full time terms of service in AmeriCorps.

Military Recruiting Efforts and Options to Refer Quality Applicants to AmeriCorps

While large numbers of applicants are not able to meet the high military medical standards for service, those with non severe medical issues rather than not being accepted could be referred to AmeriCorps as a possible way they can serve the country. Enabling AmeriCorps recruitment staff to formally connect with military recruiters to receive referrals of quality candidates who could meet the AmeriCorps standards of acceptance would be a good first step to engage more individuals to serve. This opportunity would also relieve the military recruiters from only having unfortunate news to offer an otherwise motivated applicant.

Continuing Challenges Women Face who Join the Military

While building the Washington State VetCorps, the first AmeriCorps veterans program in the country, I had the opportunity of meeting with many women veterans who while designing this program also shared with me the responsibilities we would need to address while serving women who experienced Military Sexual Trauma (MST). I was shocked by these experiences and even more frustrated at how the military at all levels failed to act to support these women many of whom endured MST throughout their military career. For many it also led to Post Traumatic Stress issues that we were able to better understand and provide options so these women veterans could access high quality medical assistance.

While very difficult to address in any report, the Commission needs to make a statement regarding this issue if it expects more women to serve in national military service.

3/4/19

From: Jim Wooten <[REDACTED]>
Sent on: Thursday, February 21, 2019 7:41:56 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: Comments re: National service
Urgent: High

Hello;

I believe the US can increase participation in national/public service by recognizing that there is a large segment of the population in our mid-50s who suddenly find themselves out of work and perhaps unemployable in the private sector due to age-related factors. It is too soon for us to retire but we possess critical technical and organizational skills that would be highly valued in the public sector. We have been removed from the workforce through no fault of our own and view the public sector as a viable new path to re-employment. A major obstacle, however, to public sector employment is that, although there are many openings in agencies for which our skills would be a good match (i.e. NGA, DIA, NSA, etc.), we do not have security clearance and so we cannot even apply/interview for these positions. My suggestion is to streamline the application process and hasten the clearance procedures to enable those of us with those skills, and who want to serve our country in a meaningful way, can apply for open positions and our applications will be considered in a timely manner. I would further recommend starting with this mid-50s cohort first; I believe we have a better understanding of the value of public service than younger generations.

Thank you.

James Wooten

3/4/19

From: tranquilpath [REDACTED]
Sent on: Monday, February 25, 2019 8:52:10 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: Draft for women public opinion

Hello, as a voting American citizen and mother of two children, college educated, 40-year old I do not agree with drafting females.

I agree that they should if they can and wish to, serve in combat roles, but I do not feel it is a place for women to be drafted. We should be allowed to focus on family, education, marriage, and possibility of raising children. Its a breakdown of our society when women become the caretakers of men. You can call me old-fashioned but I am a working mom (in medicine), yet I am sensitive and proudly a woman who prides myself in women's work which includes family and household duties. Whatever happened to the brave male soldiers protecting women and children? Its a disgrace to know women may have to fight. I support those women who can, but I can't imagine fighting next to men without a choice.

There's also a lot of sexual and verbal abuse that can happen to women in the military, I know because I've heard personal stories and I do not think this is a place for girls unless they are tough and rough around the edges and truly want to serve.

Rochelle Miller M.Ac.S., LAC
Southampton, PA
[REDACTED]

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Rochelle Miller M.Ac.S., LAC
Southampton, PA
[REDACTED]

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3/4/19	<p>From: William Tanzini [REDACTED] Sent on: Monday, February 25, 2019 10:12:08 PM To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov> Subject: Draft, Women, and Service</p> <p>We need to adapt a model like Israel and compel all able body men and women at the age of 18 or just after graduation from high school to serve in the military for 2 or more years. Only after this service can they receive the right to vote, the privilege to drive a vehicle, and the privilege to buy alcohol. For those not qualified for military duty they should serve in civil service as mail carriers, firemen, etc. to earn the same privileges. Without this service, they should not be allowed any government benefits such as student loans. Let's get our nation back on track and stop allowing our youth to waste their lives. Draft both men and women, teach them how to defend themselves and our nation, teach them how to become patriots and citizens, give them the opportunity they need to succeed in life.</p> <p>Reply to: [REDACTED] (C)2019 WILLIAM TANZINI CPA, CGMA, IFRS Certified, All Rights Reserved</p>
3/4/19	<p>From: Mike [REDACTED] Sent on: Monday, February 25, 2019 4:00:20 PM To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov> Subject: Draft</p> <p>I think we should have a national draft for all citizens which require 2 years of military service or some other form of public service. I believe our nation has declined due to a voluntary military. Folks need to understand what freedom really means!</p> <p>Mike Ricketson</p>

3/4/19

From: John McClaughry [REDACTED]
Sent on: Saturday, February 16, 2019 6:16:18 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: FW: Submission
Attachments: American Register proposal 0219.docx (20.15 KB)

From: John McClaughry [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 16, 2019 1:11 PM
To: 'info@inspire2serve.gov'
Subject: Submission

Please be good enough to include this submission for consideration of the Commission and the public. Thank you

John McClaughry*, President

Institute for Liberty and Community

[REDACTED]

Concord VT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

· Member, National Voluntary Service Advisory Council (1973)

Senior Policy Advisor, Reagan White House 1981-82

* Member, White House draft registration working group

* Major, USMC Reserve (ret)

3/4/19

From: Bill Parker [REDACTED]
Sent on: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 3:11:43 AM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Selective Service Registration Thoughts

----- Forwarded message -----

Subject: Selective Service Registration Thoughts

As someone was required to register for selective service back in 1981, but was denied entry to the US Navy due to physical disability, I find the commissions input on this matter to be valuable, but very long overdue.

Since Congress lifted the ban on combat roles being off-limits to women, they should be required to register with selective service when they turn 18, and in an ironic twist, a federal judge has struck down the 'males only' requirement for selective service registration as 'unconstitutional' as women are no longer excluded from combat roles in the U.S. Military (and if the Equal Rights Amendment had passed years ago, women would have been forced to register as well as men).

Interestingly enough, I was continually asked by the U.S. Navy in the early 80's while attending college to get a degree in computer science if I had an interest in joining the Navy's Nuclear Engineering program (I guess they never talked to the recruiter and medical doctor who told me I wasn't qualified to join up), and when I turned 35, the letters stopped coming in the mail.

In addition, I work in the high demand field of cybersecurity and cloud engineering and in reading the reports of government having a great deal of difficulty recruiting talent isn't surprising at all, given the recent government shutdown allowed my company (and quite a few others) to recruit upwards of 20 furloughed workers into the private sector (16 of those individuals took the offers within four days of being interviewed, by the way), and to listen to individuals like Congresswoman Robin Kelly complain about the difficulty of recruiting new IT talent, especially in cybersecurity is ironic indeed, since Congress is long seen as being part of the problem, and not the solution.

Given that 71% of all persons aged 17-24 in this country are unfit for military service, and that attitudes towards public service remain low, I agree with the conclusions that more must be done to make things more attractive to younger persons who might want a government career, but given that government shutdowns pretty much negate that, what can be done?

The key issue that I have with the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service is that you cannot 'mandate' public service, otherwise it's no longer public service, but something else entirely. If you really want to make an impact, remove the often onerous barriers to hiring employees (no one starting out on a career can wait 4 to 6 months for a hiring decision to be made), re-evaluate jobs that require security clearances to see if they can be done without needing a clearance (when I worked for a government contractor years ago, (DOE "Q" clearance required), I'd estimate that upwards of 90% of the data I looked at as a cybersecurity specialist didn't need a clearance at all, and finally start looking at ways to make public service more attractive (given the tight labor market); the government is directly competing with the private sector for STEM talent, and is losing the battle.

Bill Parker

3/4/19

From: Militia Will Foster [REDACTED]
Sent on: Monday, February 25, 2019 1:32:35 AM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: how to foster a greater ethos

It is a LIE to state: “The United States ended the practice of conscription—requiring young men to serve in the military involuntarily”.

The Constitution

Article I sec. 7 states Congress may employ any member of the militia in the Service of the United States.

Article II sec. 2 of the Constitution states that the President commands those militia members called into actual Service of the United States.

10 USC Ch. 12: §246 (a) states that the USA militia, with minor exceptions, consists of all able-bodied males at least 17 years of age and, under 45 years of age who are, or who have made a declaration of intention to become, citizens of the United States and of female citizens of the United States who are members of the National Guard.

<http://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title10/subtitleA/part1/chapter12&edition=prelim>

Although the various congresses have altered the notification practice of conscription, the ability to draft has always resided within the constitution. The only way to actually legally end the practice of conscription is to redefine, via an act of congress, who is in the militia; or amend the constitution.

What is already within the federal government’s power and how do we move our militia, or we the people’s militancy, forward?

A for instance. If the congress felt that there was an imminent invasion, from say Mexico, today they could, via the constitution, call forth ANY member of the free able body 18-45 year old male populous, to repel the “Invasion”.

Furthermore, Congress can already call forth the Militia to execute any of the Laws of the Union. In reality it is more a matter

of the Legislature creating the laws, and the Executive actually implementing.

Most importantly we need the Judiciary to rule that, post the 2nd amendment, sweeping deregulation of the any part of militia, was/is unconstitutional. As was done to the majority of the regulations repealed by The Efficiency in Militia Act of 1903.

As an example, Congress's repeal of sec. 1640 of the revised statues, which enacted the method "to superintend the(ir) exercise and maneuvers, and introduce... the system of military discipline prescribed by law" on all 18-45 males. infringed on what Inspire2Serve is trying to reinstitute.

<https://archive.org/stream/revisedstatutes01statgoog#page/n307/mode/2up/search/breech>

I find it disturbing this commission has made NO reference to the original militia plan, presented by our first executive. A plan that states: "unless a Republic prepares itself by proper arrangement to meet those exigencies to which all States are in a degree liable, that its peace and exitance are more precarious than the forms of Government in which the will of one direct the conduct of the whole..."

<https://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llac&fileName=002/llac002.db&recNum=432>

Or why is there no reference to the Congressional act allowing to execute the creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps, and She-She-She Camps? Which although voluntary, could have been mandatory, to some, by the definition of our militia. An act that was "for the purpose of relieving the acute condition of widespread distress and unemployment now existing in the United States, and in order to provide for the restoration of the country's depleted nation resources and advancement of an orderly program of useful public works..."

<https://www.loc.gov/law/help/statutes-at-large/73rd-congress/session-1/c73s1ch17.pdf>

Trying to inspire the public 2Serve is nothing new. The first congresses' debated, at length, what the Militia should be.

<https://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llac&fileName=006/llac006.db&recNum=80>

The militia was created when we were part of the English empire.
existed through the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union period.

And continued onward post ratification of our Constitution, and onward toward our future.

This is why the constitution does not have any wording creating the militia. It already existed. It only expresses what body shall be empowered to call forth, and provide for. And what branch shall command it.

It was further ratified that infringing on what was, at the time, a well regulated militia would be unconstitutional. Why? Because it is necessary to the security of a free state.

Why? In Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity

William Foster

<p>3/4/19</p>	<p>From: Orin Mhando [REDACTED] Sent on: Friday, February 15, 2019 7:26:10 PM To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov> Subject: Ideas on mandatory service.</p> <p>If mandatory national service(conscription) were to reinstated, it would have to comprise of both military and civilian components. For example, anyone between the ages of 18 and 26 should be required to serve four years in any component of the armed forces, or in a civilian capacity which heavily emphasizes national defense and homeland security. This idea is loosely based on the proposed Universal National Service Act of 2003, by (then)Rep. Charles Rangel. Bear in mind, not everyone eligible will be drafted into the military and civilian roles. The number of those drafted should be based on the needs of manpower and personnel in both areas.</p> <p>I suggest three proposals, although inductees would be randomly chosen in these three areas, regarding on their capability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Serving in the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard - Serving in an area of Department of Homeland Security, such as Border Patrol, ICE, FBI, Diplomatic Security, Federal Air Marshalls, etc - Serving in first responders(police, fire, EMS)
<p>3/4/19</p>	<p>From:Orin MhandoTo:NCoS InfoSubject:Ideas on mandatory service.Date:Friday, February 15, 2019 2:26:16 PMIf mandatory national service(conscription) were to reinstated, it would have to comprise of both military andcivilian components. For example, anyone between the ages of 18 and 26 should be required to serve four years inany component of the armed forces, or in a civilian capacity which heavily emphasizes national defense andhomeland security. This idea is loosely based on the proposed Universal National Service Act of 2003, by(then)Rep. Charles Rangel. Bear in mind, not everyone eligible will be drafted into the military and civilian roles.The number of those drafted should be based on the needs of manpower and personnel in both areas.I suggest three proposals, although inductees would be randomly chosen in these three areas,</p>

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3/4/19

From: [REDACTED]
Sent on: Monday, February 25, 2019 5:25:19 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
CC: [REDACTED]
Subject: Public Comments

2. Offer grants for college, allow participants to receive Pell grants no matter what income level their parents are at, obtain a social media division, visit more rural area schools, promote trade schools, Insure any license obtained is good in all 50 states without having to retest

3. Military-All the kids know about the military in these days is War. The only spoke person the military have are recruiters. They don't do a great job about telling young kids about what pathway the military can provide after your service has been completed or how it can transfer over to the Public Sector. Provide funding for schools to take a trip to local VA Hospitals, ASVAB testing{Why} Military trains everyone for a specific job their in and this test does not accurately evaluate that capability. Reevaluate the height/weight requirements

National/Public-If your parents are not financial stable you can't afford the upfront cost, Spending time do something for free or what is considered as no tangible value has no interest for the young generation.

4. Rural Schools Visits, Speaking with the younger generation about the career opporunties,dedicated mentors to guide them through the process, working with criminal justice system on second chance opporunties to allow military service in lieu of jail. Developing a curriculum with HBCU's to provide the talent needed to have a pipeline of employable talent. Student Loan Forgiveness

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

3/4/19

From: Steven Brosius [REDACTED]
Sent on: Sunday, February 24, 2019 6:43:55 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: Selective service

I am a single Dad looking after my two little boys full time. I also have a government job.

Selective service itself is unconstitutional. Wartime draft is a different issue.

Selective Service takes away peoples freedom to make a decision about their life that does not create harm or distress to anyone else.

People of both sexes, sexual orientations and age ... come in all shapes, sizes and abilities. Also people have many different life goals and desires. Some women are more suited physicaly, mentally and emotionally to serving their country in the armed forces than some men.

I believe in times of relative peace people of all persuasions and ages should be allowed to join the armed forces or not at their own discretion.

Age should also not be a factor. If an older person wishes to try to join the forces they should not be stopped automatically because of their age. At this time in our society the roles and activities in the armed forces are so wide and varied nobodies abilities should be overlooked.

All should be given the choice and the chance to sign on the dotted line or not.

Thanks Steve B

3/4/19

From: Militia Will Foster [REDACTED]
Sent on: Sunday, February 24, 2019 3:25:07 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: Share Your Thoughts

Sir or Madam,

As I am sure you are aware:

“A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

The 1902 the Dick act unconstitutionally deregulated the reserve (unorganized) militia from 35 regulations to 9. More importantly if one considers the historical jurisprudence stemming from sec. 7 of the Second militia act of 1792 (based on “the Blue Book”) over 1150+ regulations were repealed.

This infringement has led to a less secure state.

On January 18, 1790 George Washington, “conceiving the subject to be of the highest importance to the welfare of our country” presented to congress “for the general arrangement of the militia” a letter from Secretary of War Henry Knox. Who stated that “it has been my anxious desire to devise a nation system of defense, adequate to the probable exigencies of the United States, whether arising from internal or external causes; and, at the same time, to erect a standard of republican magnanimity, independent of, and superior to, the power influences of wealth.”

If the commission does not consider this while including females, and hopefully people of intersex, in what we now define as the unorganized militia a continual deform of a more perfect Union will occur. We will continue to be less able to establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity.

Sincerely,

William Foster

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3/4/19

From: Mara Deschamps [REDACTED]
Sent on: Monday, February 25, 2019 6:04:50 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: Should service be mandatory for women?

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Maria Cervantes, a naturalized American who love the United States and is grateful with the country. I am reading that this Committee was conformed last year and it is open to public discussions through Facebook and Social media. This is the reason I decided to write to you.

I am a Christian. I have never hold a gun. I can't hold a gun because it is against my faith. In this standing I have raised my children, in what Jesus said to Peter (John 18:11). I wonder what option you will offer to the people who are Americans and can't be active in the militia due to their faith?

I am a Christian. Therefore I believe that men and women are NOT created equal. They do not have same body organs and are not exposed to the same health issues. Men and women have different roles in their society. Men and women have equal intellectual capacity, but are not equal in strength or physical capacity. In my Christian faith, men are supposed to protect women. If the USA is "A Nation Under God" it means that it is under God's alignments.

Please remember that any "mandatory" requirement reduces freedom and individual rights.

It is true that the earlier question about women in combat found an answer in a consistent Old Testament historical pattern.

Only men were counted to go to war (Numbers 1:2–3).

Only sons were chosen for war (1 Samuel 8:11).

Only men went to war (Genesis 14:14–15).

Daughters served in domestic roles (1 Samuel 8:13).

Wives and children did not go to war (Deuteronomy 3:19–20).

Women welcomed men back from war; never did they return with them (1 Samuel 18:6–7).

Blessings,

-- Maria Cervantes

3/4/19

From: John McClaughry [REDACTED]
Sent on: Saturday, February 16, 2019 6:11:02 PM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: Submission
Attachments: American Register proposal 0219.docx (20.15 KB)

Please be good enough to include this submission for consideration of the commission and the public. Thank you

John McClaughry*, President

Institute for Liberty and Community

[REDACTED]

Concord VT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

· Senior Policy Advisor, Reagan White House 1981-82

*Member, White House draft registration working group

* Major, USMC Reserve (ret)

3/4/19

From: Joe [REDACTED]
Sent on: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 9:55:33 AM
To: NCoS Info <Info@inspire2serve.gov>
Subject: Women in the draft

The Commission Staff,

I have a difficult issue to raise with you. I've been reluctant to raise it because of being a Veteran of the Persian Gulf War. I've decided to raise it anyway because I want to smile again. What I see is strife after serving in the conditions the US Military sent me in.

I may have worsened the problem by not talking to the Doctor for years. I really want to resolve it because women have Peace, not strife in the soul to nurture the lives of children.

How do you see the situation?

Cheers,
Christine Ingram

3/4/19

Emilio J. Dominguez, M.D., D.L.F.A.P.A.
Distinguished Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association
[REDACTED] San Antonio, Texas [REDACTED]

Commissioner Mr. Thomas Kilgannon: February 3, 2019

I am very thankful and pleased with the initiative and the work of the Commission on Military, National and Public Service. We have the hope of giving our youth the opportunity to provide public service to our country and strengthen our democracy.

As you well know, not all our youth have the same opportunities growing up. Many of them were born into poverty, dysfunctional families and others without good health care or good chances to learn. The Military Services have provided great training and opportunities for our youth over the years. Mandatory Public Service will attract many idealistic youngsters with good mental and emotional preparation, as well many others with emotional scars and significant academic and social deficits. Those scars and deficits become impediments to functioning under the stresses of daily interactions and demands. For those reasons we should provide the candidates for public service a training program, with some of the lessons learned from the military.

I am enclosing my thoughts for a training program for the candidates to public service. I am a believer that public service will be especially good for those young Americans.

Sincerely
-t~~~.M))

Emilio J. Dominguez, M.D.

A NATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC SERVICE FOR
POST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

"Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do
for your country." President John F. Kennedy

There is a National recognition that we must help our youth get more engaged with our civil society for their own sake as we" as that of our society and their future. Their voter participation rates are lower in younger citizens. From 1972 to 2012, citizens 18-29 years old turned out at a rate 15 to 20 points lower than citizens 30 years and older.

Why?

What are some of the elements of this question?

Perhaps psychological problems are a factor. In 1976, Rutter reported that "almost one-half of the adolescents interviewed acknowledged having considerable misery and anguish". In 1982 Robbins et al. "reported a diagnosis of major depressive disorder in 28% of the adolescents they screened". "Strober et al. (1981) found a prevalence rate of 18.7%". Depression and suicide keeps soaring. In 2016 the CDC reported 5723 suicides in the age group 15-24. "Youth suicide also has increased because of an increased use of firearms". From the 1970s to the early 1990s, the homicide rate for teens (ages 15 to 19) more than doubled, from 8 per 100,000 in 1970 to a peak of 20 per 100,000 in 1993. The rate declined steeply during the late 1990s, then leveled off at around 9 deaths per 100,000 from 2000 to 2004. The rate of homicides among this age group then increased, reaching 11 per 100,000 in 2006, before falling to 7 per 100,000 in 2014, the lowest rate on record. However, rates have increased again over the last few years, rising to 9 per 100,000 in 2016.

Substance abuse continues to soar. The opioid epidemic is getting worse by the day, with increasing mortalities. With increasing legalization of marijuana, we are running the risk of many teenagers becoming serious chronic cannabis drug abusers. This will have a negative effect on their developing brain. Nearly 150,000 college students develop some type of alcohol-related health problem every year. The binge-drinking rate among college students

1 has hovered above 40 percent for two decades, and signs are that partying is getting even harder.

During the freshman year of college, 15% of women are raped while incapacitated from alcohol or drugs. It's hard to imagine a more sobering statistic. Separation anxiety from leaving home, leads many teenagers to sexual promiscuity as well as sexual violence.

According to the CDC, obesity in our young population is increasing at an alarming rate, with all the negative medical, social and

psychological consequences.

Learning disabilities, such as Dyslexia, is found in 3-70/0 of the population; however, about 20% of the population have some degree of symptoms.

Another factor impacting post high school teens might be the lack of boundaries, clear structures, and supervision that get many of them in more trouble that they can handle, especially when they lack the necessary competencies to master the challenges facing them.

Many of the problems mentioned above may not have been identified in their schools, or if they were identified, they were not corrected due to the lack of school resources. AU of these issues and many others are all good grounds to move forward to find a way to develop a Mandatory National Public Service Program after high school. These issues can be identified and corrective processes can then be initiated. It could give the teenagers an opportunity to develop new masteries and ability to adapt with a sense of new self-confidence that will go a long way to initiate a process of self-recovery.

Public concern with aUthese youth problems may create a sense of urgency for a Public National Service Program. It is of interest to know that a CNN survey done on 1/26/2019 by Mr. Smerconish showed that people were 71% in favor of such a National Public Service Program. The teenagers' interest in such a program would increase with the possibility of earning wages during that year of service.

2

After leaving their homes, why are the teens so vulnerable?

Leaving the nest has always been stressful and dangerous for every living animal. You can observe the struggles of birds leaving the nest for the first time. They practice flapping their wings over and over until they get the courage to jump into the empty space. Unfortunately, some of them will fail to master their first flight and become prey to predators.

Separation anxiety is a phenomenon also found in animals and observed by many mothers. You can see how some dogs that cannot tolerate to be away from their masters will have significant reactions

such as: severe crying, barking and damaging furniture.

In children, separation anxiety disorders may lead later on to over anxious disorders or avoidance disorders of adolescence. All these clinical syndromes leave the teenagers handicapped socially and psychologically with low self-esteem and many fears to venture into any new undertakings.

Other teenagers are raised in families that over indulge them. They grow up with a sense that the world and every person will continue giving them what they want. When they don't get it, they will get very angry, and being narcissistic as they are, they will do anything to get what they had demanded. They do not feel they need to struggle to get their way. Somebody will do it for them.

Many teenagers are ill prepared to face the world by themselves away from home without full parental support. And as they fail, they may join with bad people (predators) that may get them in worse troubles. As they become consumed with their insecurities and fears, they may even cling to "rescuers" and fall into cults.

The main psychological issues restraining adolescents from becoming successful adults and fully participative in our Civil Society are the lack of a commitment to a dream, and a pervasive sense of hopelessness based on their own personal experiences. They live in the present, unable to see a future, lacking a trust in human connections.

3

Can the experiences in a well-run National Public Service Program change the outlook of those teenagers? I think so, because deep down teenagers are resilient, idealistic, curious and hungry for new experiences and healthier relationships. After all, Public Service is good Medicine for the Soul.

Alternatives for Public Service available for post high school graduates:

- AmeriCorps - Youth Build - City Year
- Teach Corps for America - Peace Corps
- A National Public Service Program to train teens for public

service

1) Three months of Federal modified "boot camp" with emphasis on improving health, fitness and education.

a) The expectations during these 3 months will be to identify health, educational and competency problems and correct them as much as possible.

b) Improve the fitness of each trainee.

c) Improve and establish healthy routines and discipline.

d) Improve verbal communication with frequent small mixed groups and individual presentations. Group discussions could include national and international issues. Conversations should also include experiences with the program and personal dreams they have or should have for their future.

e) Every one should know how to swim, play chess and learn meditation and relaxation techniques. Everyone should also participate in at least one team sport.

f) Trainees with learning deficits will be provided with an intensive remediation program.

4

g) Trainees that do well can be provided with the opportunity to learn new languages.

h) All trainees will learn basic emergency first aid.

i) Smart phones, tablets and personal TV will not be allowed, to discourage isolation and promote human interaction and social skills.

j) By teaching them good manners, good habits, and basic social etiquette norms, teens will be more successful in their public service assignment and in their future.

k) Religious services will be available.

l) No home visits during these 3 months. Parents and siblings may have short visits once a month on Sundays.

2) Nine months internships in Federal or State Agencies or qualified Not for Profit Organization or Tribal Government

a) The agencies will have to meet national employment

criteria with clear supervision guidelines for the candidates, as well as pay them the national wage.

b) The trainees can apply to any agency of their choosing, but to be accepted, they will have to meet the standards of that facility, as well as available openings.

c) If the trainees fail to fulfill their contract with the agency, they will have to go back to an available "boot camp" for additional retraining.

3) Colleges that can demonstrate that their curriculum meets the standards of the Mandatory one Year of Public Service will fulfill the requirements of the National Public Service Program.

a) Students in Colleges that are not participating in the Mandatory Public Service Programs and doing well

5

academically and socially have the option of a direct one year public service after graduation.

b) College students that violate the college ethical conduct, or show continuous academic failures, will be referred to the first "boot camp" available in a Public Service Training Facility.

c) College students graduating with student loans will be given the opportunity to have their loans forgiven for working in public service careers for several years.

References:

Textbook of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
 Edited by Jerry M. Wiener, M.D.
 Helping Teenagers Become Successful and Responsible Adults
 by Emilio J. Dominguez, M.D., D.F.A.P.A. and
 Lizabeth Craig, R.N., 8.S.Ed

6

3/4/19

Emilio J. Dominguez, M.D., D.L.F.A.P.A.
Distinguished Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association
[REDACTED], San Antonio, Texas [REDACTED]

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During the freshman year of college, 15% of women are raped while incapacitated from alcohol or drugs. It's hard to imagine a more sobering statistic. Separation anxiety from leaving home, leads many teenagers to sexual promiscuity as well as sexual violence.

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Another factor impacting post high school teens might be the lack of boundaries, clear structures, and supervision that get many of them in more trouble that they can handle, especially when they lack the necessary competencies to master the challenges facing them.
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3/4/19

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[REDACTED], San Antonio, Texas [REDACTED]

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As you well know, not all our youth have the same opportunities growing up. Many of them were born into poverty, dysfunctional families and others without good health care or good chances to learn. The Military Services have provided great training and opportunities for our youth over the years. Mandatory Public Service will attract many idealistic youngsters with good mental and emotional preparation, as well many others with emotional scars and significant academic and social deficits. Those scars and deficits become impediments to functioning under the stresses of daily interactions and demands. For those reasons we should provide the candidates for public service a training program, with some of the lessons learned from the military.

I am enclosing my thoughts for a training program for the candidates to public service. I am a believer that public service will be especially good for those young Americans.

Sincerely
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A NATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC SERVICE FOR
POST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

"Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do
for your country." President John F. Kennedy

There is a National recognition that we must help our youth get more engaged with our civil society for their own sake as we" as that of our society and their future. Their voter participation rates are lower in younger citizens. From 1972 to 2012, citizens 18-29 years old turned out at a rate 15 to 20 points lower than citizens 30 years and older.

Why?

What are some of the elements of this question?

Perhaps psychological problems are a factor. In 1976, Rutter reported that "almost one-half of the adolescents interviewed acknowledged having considerable misery and anguish". In 1982 Robbins et al. "reported a diagnosis of major depressive disorder in 28% of the adolescents they screened". "Strober et al. (1981) found a prevalence rate of 18.7%". Depression and suicide keeps soaring. In 2016 the CDC reported 5723 suicides in the age group 15-24. "Youth suicide also has increased because of an increased use of firearms". From the 1970s to the early 1990s, the homicide rate for teens (ages 15 to 19) more than doubled, from 8 per 100,000 in 1970 to a peak of 20 per 100,000 in 1993. The rate declined steeply during the late 1990s, then leveled off at around 9 deaths per 100,000 from 2000 to 2004. The rate of homicides among this age group then increased, reaching 11 per 100,000 in 2006, before falling to 7 per 100,000 in 2014, the lowest rate on record. However, rates have increased again over the last few years, rising to 9 per 100,000 in 2016.

Substance abuse continues to soar. The opioid epidemic is getting worse by the day, with increasing mortalities. With increasing legalization of marijuana, we are running the risk of many teenagers becoming serious chronic cannabis drug abusers. This will have a negative effect on their developing brain. Nearly 150,000 college students develop some type of alcohol-related health problem every year. The binge-drinking rate among college students

1 has hovered above 40 percent for two decades, and signs are that partying is getting even harder.

During the freshman year of college, 15% of women are raped while incapacitated from alcohol or drugs. It's hard to imagine a more sobering statistic. Separation anxiety from leaving home, leads many teenagers to sexual promiscuity as well as sexual violence.

According to the CDC, obesity in our young population is increasing at an alarming rate, with all the negative medical, social and

psychological consequences.
Learning disabilities, such as Dyslexia, is found in 3-70/0 of the population; however, about 20% of the population have some degree of symptoms.
Another factor impacting post high school teens might be the lack of boundaries, clear structures, and supervision that get many of them in more trouble that they can handle, especially when they lack the necessary competencies to master the challenges facing them.
Many of the problems mentioned above may not have been identified in their schools, or if they were identified, they were not corrected due to the lack of school resources. AU of these issues and many others are all good grounds to move forward to find a way to develop a Mandatory National Public Service Program after high school. These issues can be identified and corrective processes can then be initiated. It could give the teenagers an opportunity to develop new masteries and ability to adapt with a sense of new self-confidence that will go a long way to initiate a process of self-recovery.
Public concern with aUthese youth problems may create a sense of urgency for a Public National Service Program. It is of interest to know that a CNN survey done on 1/26/2019 by Mr. Smerconish showed that people were 71% in favor of such a National Public Service Program. The teenagers' interest in such a program would increase with the possibility of earning wages during that year of service.

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After leaving their homes, why are the teens so vulnerable?
Leaving the nest has always been stressful and dangerous for every living animal. You can observe the struggles of birds leaving the nest for the first time. They practice flapping their wings over and over until they get the courage to jump into the empty space. Unfortunately, some of them will fail to master their first flight and become prey to predators.
Separation anxiety is a phenomenon also found in animals and observed by many mothers. You can see how some dogs that cannot tolerate to be away from their masters will have significant reactions

such as: severe crying, barking and damaging furniture.
In children, separation anxiety disorders may lead later on to over anxious disorders or avoidance disorders of adolescence. All these clinical syndromes leave the teenagers handicapped socially and psychologically with low self-esteem and many fears to venture into any new undertakings.
Other teenagers are raised in families that over indulge them. They grow up with a sense that the world and every person will continue giving them what they want. When they don't get it, they will get very angry, and being narcissistic as they are, they will do anything to get what they had demanded. They do not feel they need to struggle to get their way. Somebody will do it for them.
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The main psychological issues restraining adolescents from becoming successful adults and fully participative in our Civil Society are the lack of a commitment to a dream, and a pervasive sense of hopelessness based on their own personal experiences. They live in the present, unable to see a future, lacking a trust in human connections.

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Can the experiences in a well-run National Public Service Program change the outlook of those teenagers? I think so, because deep down teenagers are resilient, idealistic, curious and hungry for new experiences and healthier relationships. After all, Public Service is good Medicine for the Soul.

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a) The expectations during these 3 months will be to identify health, educational and competency problems and correct them as much as possible.

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a) Students in Colleges that are not participating in the Mandatory Public Service Programs and doing well

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3/4/19	<p>Ask state board of education to require their public schools to allow recruiters on campus-especially if their schools are receiving federal money. Also ask them to offer the ASVAB test. Ask major churches throughout the nation to encourage young people to join the military or other public service. John C. Williams, Lt Col 173 AF (ret). Chairman of the Board, Utah Military Academy.</p>

3/4/19	Consider a recommendation for every citizen servig in one of the three pillars of service comulsory period of time ~2 years and its benefit to society/our nation.
3/4/19	<p>Statement of Paul Jacob National Commission on Military, National and Political Service Universal Service Hearing: Should Service be Mandatory? Feb. 21,2019 American University, Washington, D.C.</p> <p>Americans need to know that Congress is actively considering the possibility of drafting young adults - our kids - and forcing them into service against their will. Sadly, frighteningly, that is why we are here today for a hearing entitled, "Should Service be Mandatory?"</p> <p>The answer to your question is emphatically NO. No involuntary servitude.</p> <p>I bet that, deep down, commissioners, you agree. Why? Your website is "inspire2serve.gov" and the emails I receive from your excellent staff bear that same "inspire2serve.gov" domain name. I get it. It has a great ring and I am sure that you do want to inspire Americans to serve.</p> <p>That's noble and good.</p> <p>I suspect, however, that you would not want to use an email address or website saying "force2serve.gov" or, perhaps, "draft2serve.gov" or "conscript2serve.gov," would you? And I guess "drag-them-out-of-their-homes-and-away-from-their-lives-and-imprison-them-todo-routine-government-work.gov" is, no matter how accurate, simply too long.</p> <p>Provided the Commission recommends to Congress that there should be no draft, "inspire2serve.gov" works perfectly. But if there is even the slightest chance you will suggest that Congress pass legislation compelling every young person to submit to the federal government for a year of forced labor, then that website address just isn't right. It would be a lie.</p> <p>I beseech this Commission: forswear forced service of any kind. And please, before you consider recommending a program of compulsory national service, change your email and web addresses to "force2serve.gov." For even a week or two. See how it feels to be part of a Commission that no longer "inspires to serve," but instead, uses force to make people serve.</p> <p>That "force2serve" slogan won't be very inspiring.</p> <p>[267]</p>


3/13/2019	<p>February 27, 2019 Honorable Joseph J. Heck, MD, Chairman National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service 2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Box 63 Arlington, VA 22202 Dear Dr. Heck, Let me, as a citizen who began 31 years of national service as an Army private and ended as the American ambassador to Somalia, offer you my views. I have just read with interest the Commission's interim report of January 23, 2019. I regret not having offered my views to the Commission before this, but until the February 26 article in the Washington Post I was frankly unaware that the Commission existed. I understand that the Commission is bound by legislation to consider in the first instance reform of the military selective service process [P.L. 114-328, Sec. 555(c)(1)]. We will never, unless we must in the future confront some new world war, resume the military draft, given our loss in Vietnam of over fifty thousand men, almost a third of them draftees. But we will profit by having a citizenry that has served our country. I urge the Commission to propose a system of universal, compulsory national service of at least one year for all young Americans, male and female, when they finish high school or reach 18, except for those seriously disabled. A lottery would assign an individual to, say, a National Forest or National Park, a hospital or hospice, a school, or some other approved organization. Individuals could volunteer for military service. I have discussed this idea with over a dozen older men who, like me, served in the military when service was compulsory. Without exception they agree that a universal and compulsory system with an option to volunteer to do service in the military would be an excellent thing. My friends and I did not like being Army privates, but we see it in retrospect as valuable experience that heightened our devotion to our country. Today, 18-year-olds have the vote, and a number of them will no doubt tell their elected representatives they oppose a compulsory system. Wise leadership and good use of the bully pulpit will be required to put it through.</p> <p>Sincerely, Peter Bridges American Ambassador, retired</p>
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Date	Text of Response
3/4/2019	<p>Hello. I am writing in response to the recent judge's ruling that a male-only draft is unconstitutional. I see that it may seem unequal to exclude women from a draft. I also see that there is a large percentage of the population that would be excluded in case of a draft. However, I am very concerned about women being included in a draft. And more specifically, women with children. It would be cruel and unreasonable to take a mother away from her children, especially during a time of war. This country is built by families, and this a threat to the future of our country. I think that this also applies to male gay couples with children. The draft should never have the power to take away both parents, leaving an unstable household and potentially orphaning their children. What are we fighting for if not our families' safety? So I plead, please consider the children and families that are affected everywhere by these decisions. Thank you.</p>
3/4/2019	<p>I do not believe service, of any kind, should be mandatory. To do so would open it to protests, legal challenges, and legislative repeal which would taint the concept of service. Each person should choose whether or not to serve as part of their pursuit of happiness. However, service can certainly be encouraged through greater exposure.</p> <p>Exposure to service should begin in middle school so that as high schoolers, they have already been exposed to different types of service and can make a more informed decision about a possible career path or how they would like to volunteer their time in general. Starting service in high school shortens the time frame they are exposed to opportunities and limits the time to research potential career paths. College tours begin as a junior so presumably students have started to look at possible majors as a sophomore to determine what colleges or vocational programs they should apply for. I would encourage every government facility to have some sort of public service outreach program with at least one local middle school. It would be an easy way for a veteran's home, military base, national park, FBI office, etc. to show students the multitude of ways they can contribute to American society. Perhaps some kind of small, introductory program through school clubs or scouting organizations that exposes kids to volunteering and different service aspects – nursing homes for healthcare, park/historical facility clean-up for conservation, nature trail restoration for environmental, tutoring support for educational, etc. This exposure through service can spark an interest that will stay with the volunteer for life.</p> <p>Summer service programs for high school and middle school students would be excellent. Especially for poor students who frequently go without meals during the long summer months. If meals and transportation stipends could be included in this type of program, that would help millions of families by also supporting basic needs that go unmet when students are out of school. Non-profits could organize these opportunities and private businesses could sponsor them.</p> <p>As far as civil service, I have frequently considered it over my career as a government contractor. But what continues to hold me back is the archaic nature of its hiring process (I'm not a veteran so I'm automatically at a disadvantage). I also, personally, oppose the lack of ability to terminate an employee. I have worked with government employees who should have been terminated because of their poor work ethic, slander of other employees or contractors, and simply because the position is no longer needed. And while these civil servants are a minority, it is this minority that gives ALL civil servants a bad name.</p> <p>Serving fellow citizens has always been a core component of America which helped us see beyond religion, race, and socio-economic differences. Re-emphasizing service could greatly enhance our current civil discourse.</p>

3/4/2019	<p>I feel the motivation to serve comes from practices within our family dynamics. Families who serve tend to be more giving and eager to help others. I personally grew up in a giving and sharing environment, and volunteering to help a valid need seems to come easy for me. I served 24 years in the United States Air Force often volunteering to take on jobs others felt less glamorous or dirty to commit to, still these jobs were necessary to complete the overall mission expectations. I always looked at each opportunity to learn and grow. In other experiences I saw a valid need and committed myself to improve conditions for others, putting them first. I continue to serve because I see a great need to build community and improve the environment for others. I served in the AmeriCorps Veterans Serving Veterans program in Idaho and still serve as a State commissioner with Serve Idaho, the Governors Commission on Service and Volunteerism today.</p>
3/4/2019	<p>The most important point is that the evil of conscription in itself outweighs well-intentioned but myopic arguments that cherish the wider distribution of civic duties or women's equality. Selective Service should be abolished. Neither women nor men should be compelled to perform public service; above all, they should not be compelled to bear arms and kill in the name of the state.</p> <p>1/ The inherent value of service is real, but it is inherently bound up with a will to serve, and thus with voluntarism.</p> <p>2/ Pursue policies, civilian and military, that a young American may be reasonably expected to desire to promote, and thus to volunteer for. No war in my 70-year lifetime has met that standard.</p> <p>5/ No.</p> <p>6/ Modification cannot address the radical defect of the SSS concept. It should be done away with entirely.</p> <p>7/ Unnecessary; of strictly limited value; infeasible without much injustice and suffering.</p>
3/4/2019	<p>I believe that national service does have inherent value. It makes people think critically about society and community and how we should all work for our communities. National service is inherently selfless work where you sacrifice your time and earning potential in order to give back to the community. I believe that everyone would benefit from a mandatory national service requirement, but I also believe that it is easier for some to participate than others the way that the system is set up now. The stipend for public service right now is livable if you do not have any dependents and if you already have basic things like a car. The living stipend can be very difficult for people who do not have access to a working car or who are supporting other family members. I do not believe in a draft for military participation, or anything that would force people to serve in the military in any way. I do not support enlarging the military or giving more money to the military. I believe that money would be better served in public service and national service initiatives like in Americorps. I served a year with City Year in between college and law school and it changed my life for the better. I will be graduating from law school this spring and then working as a public defender to continue the values that City Year taught me. My only regret is that I did not do national service in between high school and college. I believe a fellowship for 18 year olds to participate in national service would benefit the country as a whole and would push more people to give back to their communities.</p>

3/4/2019	<p>Request opportunity to present (10 min) or otherwise participate in the College Station hearing on 28 Mar. Major General John Borling (founder chairman of SOS America —service over self—and a cell mate of John McCain’s in Hanoi) has previously presented to the Commission in Washington. New developments occasion this request and for follow on testimony by SOS representatives. The issue, of course, is the role of the military and the role/outcomes desired no increasing the opportunity for meaningful service. Thank you.</p> <p>Contact info. [REDACTED] See www.sosamerica.org</p>
3/4/2019	<p>Request opportunity to present (10 min) or otherwise participate in the College Station hearing on 28 Mar. Major General John Borling (founder chairman of SOS America —service over self—and a cell mate of John McCain’s in Hanoi) has previously presented to the Commission in Washington. New developments occasion this request and for follow on testimony by SOS representatives. The issue, of course, is the role of the military and the role/outcomes desired no increasing the opportunity for meaningful service. Thank you.</p> <p>Contact info. [REDACTED] See www.sosamerica.org</p>
3/4/2019	<p>For reference, I spent 5.5 years as a US Marine from 2012-2017.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The draft should be abolished in it's entirety. It is inhumane, illegal, and unconstitutional. No American should be forced to fight, kill, and die. 2. Similar to military service there should be an option for a ameri-corps type service that yields the same benefits. For example if an individual wants to enlist in Ameri-corps for four years, they are paid at the same rates as AD military but conduct public good projects. At the completion of their time they then have access to all of the same benefits. Most importantly access to the GI Bill.
3/4/2019	<p>Community or national service has the most value when people volunteer to serve. I served my country as a Peace Corps Volunteer. I was able to do this because my student loans were paid off and I did not have any financial responsibilities (car payment, mortgage) nor any dependents. More Americans will serve if they believe in the mission of the agency/corps for which they are serving. If there is loan forgiveness, many more people may consider service as an option after college or between jobs. I believe registration for selective service should end for males and not be initiated for females. We have not had a draft in decades and the penalties for not registering fall disproportionately on people of color who may not have a driver's license or other ID at the age of 18. I am not in favor of mandatory service but would rather see more jobs offered to do work in education, infrastructure, or other areas. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
3/4/2019	<p>If Selective Service (draft) is maintain and registration is required, then all (including women) should be required to register. The restriction on combat has been removed. There should be no basis to make registration only for males.</p>
3/4/2019	<p>Please end the draft registration for both men and women. Doing so upholds both equality and freedom of conscience.</p>

3/5/2019	<p>1. If individuals 18-21 can serve in the arm forces why not change drinking age to 18. These individuals are considered adults to vote and possibly die for this nation but cannot drink a beer. Fact a young man from St Louis, Mo had three tours in middle east but cannot drink a beer because he was not 21.</p> <p>2. Bring back the draft for men and women. Women should be required to sign up for the draft. They are more skilled and physical than men. However, there should not be a office in every town. One located east coast, one west coast, and one middle of the nation. Have a computer system would do away with offices in every town. Almost everyone of these 18-21 old has a cell phone that would have access to this system.</p> <p>3. All individuals (women and men) under 21 should be required to serve the nation in the military (active, reserve, or coast guard).</p>
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3/5/2019	<p>Yes end registration for both men and women. It is an issue of conscience and the right to be free of coerced participation in militarism and war.</p>

<p>3/5/2019</p>	<p>As a 2 term national service alum and someone who will soon be a VISTA supervisor, I support the following proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Offering a fellowship to 18-year-olds who want to serve, covering their living stipend and a post-service award for a year of national service at any approved not-for-profit organization. For a variety of reasons, we need to foster a gap year culture so young people can connect with different communities, contribute, and learn more about their career options and suitability. *Increasing the living stipend for those who participate in national service programs. While I understood the purpose behind the poverty level living stipend, I learned during my VISTA leader year that it can truly limit who can participate in the program. Those without a safety net find it near impossible to do. This program should not only be available to those with the privilege of a family able and willing to financially support them during their service. *Exempting the existing education award from income tax or allow it to be used for other purposes. The education award MUST become tax exempt. To be awarded money for my service, only to have it taxed as I give it back to the federal government to pay off student loans, is pointless and a bit insulting. There should also be better communication between CNCS and student loan servicers - the delays will likely make me ineligible for public service loan forgiveness. This should be a gift, rather something that makes my life more difficult. <p>Thank you!</p> <p>Meg Thompson AmeriCorps VISTA, August 2013 - August 2015 </p>
<p>3/5/2019</p>	<p>The Draft should not have been ended. Selective Service Registration should have always been ALL citizens age 18 and above regardless of gender. Every young man and women should register and serve 2 years in our Armed Forces where they learn to be responsible morally and loyal to our Great Nation and it's forefathers. It works for Israel. The issue when the draft was in place was war. Many did not want to go fight an unpopular war. Today is more defense of Democracy and protection of our freedom. Reinstating the Draft will help with Border Protection by assigning draftees to the Northern and Southern Borders for their enlistment and give the draftee a better sense of Patriotism and self worth. Those living in socially and economically depressed areas will have an opportunity to improve their life by learning a trade and social skills. Not to mention it will also address enlistment issues and hopefully retention. The youth today are self centered and codependent. Military service instills independence and growth in maturity. This subject is a tough one but not tougher then doing nothing to preserve our Democracy and Freedom.</p>

3/5/2019	<p>Dear Commission members:</p> <p>Firstly, I agree that encouraging public service is important, with incentives such as educational-loan forgiveness (e.g. for Peace Corps volunteers). We need to expand and develop programs for short-term community-based volunteer programs, particularly for youth and young adults, and also retired adults.</p> <p>Secondly, I believe that we should have no forced service, including ending "Draft" registration. Regarding Selective Service (the draft), no one has been drafted for 46 years, although we have required young men to register for the past 39 years.</p> <p>Rev. Robert J. Cromwell, Kansas City MO</p>
3/5/2019	<p>Dear Sirs: I listened to the Cspan broadcast March 5 and wish to comment. My husband and I both volunteer with several civic organizations. We find the biggest problem is to find people willing to serve as officers. We are in our 70s and are currently serving, but there never seem to be enough younger people coming in as members and the older ones have already been in office. Most people have to or choose to wait until they have retired to join volunteer groups. I wish there were an answer to this problem, and perhaps the discussed efforts to get young people involved as youths would be helpful. We should be repeating John Kennedy's words, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country".</p> <p>Thank you for accepting comments.</p> <p>Susan Zimmer Bonita, CA</p>
3/5/2019	<p>In 1974 I was involved in a county wide EMT program only paying for my books-sessions done at local fire stations throughout the county. As a result I became a volunteer for my town ambulance service for 13 years. Initially I only wanted the knowledge for my family. It was the most satisfying thing I've done other than being a mother. If more opportunities could be afforded similar to this it would also be a learning tool that possibly could work into a career path. I often say that it was the most difficult job I ever loved. I hope any funds spent can be spent as wisely as these funds were. I also spent 32 years as a State of Oklahoma employee. I am now retired from both. Merilee Nicely Oklahoma City</p>
3/5/2019	<p>Service, especially service to your community through willfully giving one year of an American citizen's life to serving the most disenfranchised, the suffering, the poor is valuable. It is valuable to the person serving, it is valuable to the people they are serving, it is valuable to their neighbors, their communities, and overall their country. While I do not believe community service should be mandatory for all citizens, as a young adult who has given two years of my adulthood to AmeriCorps, I do believe there should be heavy incentives for participation in programs such as AmeriCorps. Subsidized college tuition and/or reduced taxes on the ed segal education award are just some ideas as to how the government could encourage Americans to serve.</p>

3/6/2019

This is a follow-up to my previous comments regarding how the Commission may want to leverage certain aspects of the National Service Ride in framing the argument for universal service.

One concrete idea the Commission may wish to consider is to propose to Congress and bill that updates Veterans Day to National Service Day and to have Memorial Day include remembering all who have given their lives in national, public, and community service (not just for the military). This would not only help frame a new national narrative of service, but also help civil-military relations as well as mitigate much of our current divisiveness.

In addition to Chapter 4 of my book, Travels with Harley - Journeys in Search of Personal and National Identity (sent to your office), my case for this is explained in an 11 November 2013 op-ed in The Huffington Post: https://www.huffingtonpost.com/christopher-holshek/from-veterans-day-to-nati_b_4242252.html

I have also been in touch with Janine Davidson about this. Feel free to reach out to me for further discussion. [REDACTED]

Regards,

Christopher Holshek
Col., U.S. Army Civil Affairs (Ret.)

3/6/2019

Dear members of the Commission,

Thank you for considering the many questions to be answered concerning the draft, including the recent question of whether registering only men is discriminatory and therefore unconstitutional.

My concern is a larger one: requiring people to register for military service, and then to train and actually kill their fellow humans, may violate their consciences. To some of us, to obey our country's command, that we defend the country through such killing, forces us to put the state's commands above those of a God who loves us and commands us to love our enemies and do good to those who would do evil to us.

I agree with those who maintain that women and men should be treated equally. But especially in regard to the draft, the best way to accomplish that is to end required registration for both men and women. Doing so upholds both equality and freedom of conscience.

Thank you for your kind attention,

Sincerely,
Brendon Bass

[REDACTED]
Bethel, ME [REDACTED]

3/6/2019	<p>A few thoughts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. USAJOBS needs a complete overhaul. Candidates often are shortlisted not based on actual experience or skills, but rather on successfully packing an almost incomprehensible "resume" with an abundance of secret, specific keywords known only to the employer - and their preferred picks. Additionally, the constant rollercoaster of government shutdowns, hiring freezes, etc., makes it nearly impossible to hire qualified candidates. After surviving a multi-month selection process, a new-hire is told, "Sorry, it will be weeks, months, or years before we can bring you on board - we don't know. But you have the job!" 2. The country desperately needs an infrastructure overhaul. We have people looking for quality work opportunities with a living wage, an opportunity to develop skills, and national service. Bingo. Let's reinstitute the CCC, expand its application to public infrastructure, and get building. 3. In an increasingly specialized working world, it's incredibly hard to find entry-level positions. Businesses used to hire and train; now the "entry-level" jobs all demand 3-5 years of experience. We only exacerbate inequality when the only way to get an entry-level job is by toiling away at unpaid or underpaid internships. This is the perfect gap for national service to fill: provide entry-level, skill-building job opportunities at a living wage, often with benefits including housing, food, transportation, and health care. Military service and many national service programs have done just this for years. I would increase these opportunities across the range of national service options, and heavily promote this benefit to people across the country - especially those at lower income levels. <p>Thank you for your highly valuable work investing in our country.</p>
3/6/2019	<p>There has been discussion regarding whether women should have to register for the draft. As a onetime Army Reserve 1st Lieutenant who served in Vietnam, I can truly say I am not convinced that combat roles for women are a good idea. We had enough discipline problems without introducing women to the mix. But that bridge has been crossed and with the right to serve should also come an obligation to register for the draft. I hope there will be no need for the draft, but rights cannot be held separate from obligations. As a corporate executive I was a leader in my place of employment in terms of hiring women for positions never before held by women. I also did not cut women any slack vs. men in the organization in terms of my expectations. At 75 years of age, I realize I am unable, in terms of personal experience, to relate to expectations of millennials. The concept of fairness, however, is timeless. Women have made great strides in terms of claiming their rights and I understand the fairness of that. They can not achieve rights without the obligations that go along with them.</p>
3/7/2019	<p>I am an AmeriCorps VISTA member and I love what I do, however, it is really bothersome that VISTAs earn less than other AmeriCorps counterparts.</p>
3/7/2019	<p>I am an AmeriCorps VISTA member and I love what I do, however, it is really bothersome that VISTAs earn less than other AmeriCorps counterparts.</p>

3/7/2019	<p>Many young Americans likely already possess a strong desire to serve, increasingly so as more options beyond military service exist (AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, etc). Despite this desire, a large barrier to participation in public service can be 1) financial and 2) in representation. The U.S. no doubt increases participation in military service due to the large educational and financial benefits that can come from it. Why is other service not afforded the same benefits? And of the benefits that are offered, why is it taxed to a point that makes it burdensome? I am specifically speaking to my and my brother's experience with AmeriCorps service and the tax on the Segal Education Award. Making service financially feasible for all who would wish to serve - and not just those who can afford to take a financial hit (parents to help, savings, no dependents, few debts) - would dramatically increase participation. This directly leads to the second issue of representation. It is no secret that persons of color are more largely represented in low income populations. So often they are not able to serve due to financial difficulties. This creates a vacuum of representation in national service programs, meaning there is a large number of young and talented Americans who may not be considering national service as an option simply because they have never seen anyone that looks like them pursuing that path.</p> <p>If the powers that be continue the work of making public service and attractive and feasible option for all Americans (adequate financial compensation & diverse recruiting), mandatory service need not be a thought. In fact, I find it immoral to require Americans to serve in any capacity. Especially those Americans that the country itself has not historically served well (low-income, persons of color, LBGTQ+, disabled, immigrant, refugee, etc.)</p>
3/9/2019	<p>A mandatory National service requirement for all Americans is necessary and can address today's lack of common goals and commitment. Public Schools and modern education of our young people is missing History and the study of common goals for our society. We do not properly salute our flag learn the National Anthem, stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, or build a national commitment to service. The Service Over Self America (SOS America) addresses this need and could augment other government service programs with a Military component and alternative missing in today's all volunteer military. The Greatest Generation was well educated to meet our national challenges in their time and had the will to serve our country in its time of need. Today we are not united in common goals and it is very unlikely we could respond as they did. John Gardner recognized this in his advocacy for National Leaders and their proper training to meet our needs. In his book "On Leadership" he quotes his book on "Excellence" that you can't have freedom with out obligation. National Service is an obligation for all Americans. The SOS America addresses this need and provides a structure to allow our youth to provide a future so worthy of our past while gaining benefits in a path to citizenship, education and common goals. Congress needs to address and provide for this Nation Building initiative.</p>
3/10/2019	<p>Mandatory national service or conscription for anything less than a catastrophic military emergency that exceeds capabilities of the All-Volunteer Force is UNACCEPTABLE in our country that believes in freedom.</p>

3/10/2019 Dear Commissioners,

I appreciate you taking comment on this topic because national service is essential for an integrated nation. Doing service on behalf of one's country sends a signal that citizens are expected to think of something larger than themselves. Service should be, for both practical and idealistic reasons, a key part of what it means to be an American citizen, not just something that certain people do.

Having participated in both an aborted attempt at AmeriCorps service and a successful Peace Corps term of service, I know that programmatic support makes all the difference. I quit the AmeriCorps because I literally didn't have enough money to both a) take the bus to work and b) eat. Part of the problem is that I based my budget on the assumption that I wouldn't have any withholding from my stipend. When I saw about 20% of my first paycheck disappear, I knew I was in trouble. I made it a couple of months and then had to quit because I couldn't afford to do my job. I now realize that I could have gotten on food stamps to stretch my budget further, but I don't think having national service members on food stamps is the message that this country should send. In contrast, Peace Corps was much more professionally-administered and that time was one of the most-worthwhile investments in my life. Yes, serving in Ukraine for two years was a challenge in many ways, but knowing that I had sufficient income (\$200 a month) and staff support allowed me to persist through those challenges and successfully complete my service. The difference between my AmeriCorps and Peace Corps service was night and day, due primarily to the support I received.

One of the broader benefits of mandatory national service is that it could serve as job training or an apprenticeship for people who don't have the means to make their own arrangements. If the US had a more-robust version of of national service, citizens could choose among service opportunities that they would never have access to otherwise, causing them to gain skills and expand their professional network, all without student loans.

Also, Selective Service registration needs to include everyone. I say this as the father of two daughters who would one day be subject to this new standard. If Americans all believed that their chances of seeing combat duty were higher, then we would take a more-thoughtful approach to overseas conflicts and how long we support them. There does need to be an alternative form of service for those who have ethical objections to combat because forcing them to fight wouldn't be in anyone's interest.

In summary, please do whatever you can to encourage a significant increase in citizen service to our country. All of the proposals you are considering have some merit because we are far from the point of diminishing returns in this area. I appreciate you taking on this vital topic and I wish your commission all the success in the world.

Lenny Bankester
Alexandria, VA

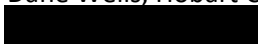
3/10/2019	<p>How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve?</p> <p>Service to our nation is a rewarding and educational experience. Young people have been asked to come to the aide of our country since the Revolutionary War. I am also a member of the District of Columbia chapter of The Sons of the American Revolution. This organization supports activities and organizations who remember our relatives who fought or supported the war in the 1700's. There is a long line of patriots who have helped establish our country. This model of an organization can encourage others to participate in Service to the country. Young Americans in schools we visit write essays, win scholarships, and study history. We can use this model to help all Americans benefit from service to our country. Rewarding service is a tried and true method to encourage participation. We should reward service by offering scholarships, tax incentives, paths to citizenship, a salary while serving, and generous education benefits when service is completed, I am a member of the SOS America non profit (501C4) which is organized and funded to increase National Service participation thru the Department of Defense and the Selective Service System. The model is there and we should encourage legislation to use our current structure to allow young people age 18 to 26 the opportunity to earn these benefits. Details are available on our Web site www.sosamerica.org. I can be reached at [REDACTED]</p>
3/11/2019	<p>Service has an inherent value in that it teaches empathy and self-sacrifice, often alongside practical skills. For young Americans to want to serve, they must believe their actions will make a positive difference AND they must believe in the institution they are a part of. That means ethical, positive, inspiring leadership at the top. Barriers can include financial obstacles like student loans, as well as a lack of role models who have served. Service should be open to, and equally required of, men, women, and gender nonbinary individuals.</p>
3/11/2019	<p>Two years of mandatory public service should be required of every US citizen regardless of race or gender, at least one year of which should be military service. The only exceptions should be for those who are physically or mentally incapable of rendering some form of service. For anyone whose religion or firmly held personal beliefs preclude them from serving in combat, those people should be assigned as military support staff. Only when the lives of all our sons and daughters are on the line will we as a people give serious thought to our assumed role as the policeman to the world. When it is not our children called upon to do the fighting, we tend to be far more bellicose.</p> <p>The second year of service should be devoted to service in the US through public works programs and other services aimed at improving infrastructure and aiding the neediest of our citizens. People could serve in programs like AmeriCorps-VISTA or teach for America.</p> <p>As part of the two-year program, citizens could receive training in various occupations with an idea that they could exit the program with marketable skills. Those wishing to obtain college degrees could receive some form of government assistance with tuition and perhaps defer service until after receiving a degree.</p> <p>Communal service to country and community would give every citizen a sense of personal worth and make tangible the fact that each of us has a stake in the future of our nation and our neighborhoods. Mandatory service for all would also help level the playing field for all our citizens, break down stereotypes, and create a sense of common purpose. It would help foster a sense of shared community.</p> <p>Sandra McCrea Signal Mountain, TN</p>

3/11/2019	Your goal should simply be to inspire and nothing else. Of the 4 million turning 18 if only 10% are inspired that is 400,000 young people in service. If you aren't inspired then your message to inspire gets lost if these young people are locked up in prison. You will become hated and reviled by those you expected to inspire. Your purpose is defeated when these lives are shattered.
3/12/2019	<p>I support the Commission’s mandate to increase participation in service activities. I urge you to make equity a key priority in considering policy options and developing your Return-on-Investment calculations for increased funding. Make sure that low-income youth and adults, who have the potential to gain a lot from participating in service experiences, have access to and can afford to participate in well-structured service activities. Well-structured service activities involve the performance of meaningful work and the supervision needed to help participants develop competencies that enhance their civic engagement and employability. Too often quality considerations are over-shadowed by other imperatives to scale programs quickly. Also, it is essential that service programs provide adequate stipends/pay and supports to enable low-income individuals to participate. Unfortunately, despite the well-articulated positive benefits individuals, communities and the Nation that can be achieved through service, it’s unlikely that a major new service initiative is going to be enacted any time soon given our current political climate. Therefore, I urge you to consider recommending the following incremental strategies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advocate for increased funding for existing volunteer programs to address demand. For example, given its current funding levels, Peace Corps can only accept 3-4000 applicants a year, a small fraction of the 20,000 plus people who apply each year. 2. Create nationally-branded badges that volunteers can earn through participation in service activities. Badges are a relatively new form of portable credential that uses digital technologies to provide verifiable evidence of learning achievements in a wide variety of settings. Badges can be used to signify achievements such as a completion of a service experience and mastery of competencies gained through such an experience. Digital badges can be shared on online sites, embedded in résumés, personal websites, or email signatures. Creating service-related badges would entail working with diverse service organizations and employers to define the competencies that should underly these badges and developing criteria for how and by whom these competencies will be assessed. Domestic and international service programs could be encouraged to adopt the competencies represented by various badges as the volunteer learning outcomes for their programs. 3. Work with employers to create incentives such as considering service experiences and competency-based badges earned in their hiring and promotion practices. But demand-side incentives without provisions to assure equitable access to service opportunities can lead to greater inequity. 4. Mobilize “graduates” of existing service programs 5. Expand the capacity of existing service efforts/networks through technical assistance, discretionary funding and other activities such as the badge initiative proposed. <p>Longer version with examples emailed.</p>

3/13/2019	<p>February 27, 2019 Honorable Joseph J. Heck, MD, Chairman National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service 2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Box 63 Arlington, VA 22202 Dear Dr. Heck, Let me, as a citizen who began 31 years of national service as an Army private and ended as the American ambassador to Somalia, offer you my views. I have just read with interest the Commission's interim report of January 23, 2019. I regret not having offered my views to the Commission before this, but until the February 26 article in the Washington Post I was frankly unaware that the Commission existed. I understand that the Commission is bound by legislation to consider in the first instance reform of the military selective service process [P.L. 114-328, Sec. 555(c)(1)]. We will never, unless we must in the future confront some new world war, resume the military draft, given our loss in Vietnam of over fifty thousand men, almost a third of them draftees. But we will profit by having a citizenry that has served our country. I urge the Commission to propose a system of universal, compulsory national service of at least one year for all young Americans, male and female, when they finish high school or reach 18, except for those seriously disabled. A lottery would assign an individual to, say, a National Forest or National Park, a hospital or hospice, a school, or some other approved organization. Individuals could volunteer for military service. I have discussed this idea with over a dozen older men who, like me, served in the military when service was compulsory. Without exception they agree that a universal and compulsory system with an option to volunteer to do service in the military would be an excellent thing. My friends and I did not like being Army privates, but we see it in retrospect as valuable experience that heightened our devotion to our country. Today, 18-year-olds have the vote, and a number of them will no doubt tell their elected representatives they oppose a compulsory system. Wise leadership and good use of the bully pulpit will be required to put it through. Sincerely, Peter Bridges American Ambassador, retired</p>
3/13/2019	<p>I served in AmeriCorps for 1 year after high school prior to entering college. As a spiritual person and a pacifist, entering the military is not a choice I would ever entertain. That said, engaging in service as a citizen is possible through programs like City Year. I learned to work with people from diverse backgrounds, offered help to underprivileged communities, and helped school children get help in doing homework. I learned more about participating in our democracy and supported my community. As long as there is a fair wage, requiring most young adults to serve for a year through AmeriCorps is an excellent option.</p>
3/13/2019	<p>A year of service is certainly a valuable commitment for any youth. A stipend or scholarship program to support service at a non-profit would open that option up to many who cannot afford to serve without funding.</p>

3/14/2019	<p>If the Selective Service System is to continue, it is necessary for all Americans to be required to sign up. This would allow the armed forces to draft the best individuals for roles most suites for them, while also helping to eliminate some of the feelings of frustration experienced by males in the United States currently. Furthermore, since diversity is a large issue in American society, this would also help improve the thoughts and opinions regarding the armed forces by increasing diversity in the military. Lastly, since women may now serve in combat roles in the armed forces, a male-only required registration policy may likely soon be deemed unconstitutional.</p> <p>It is my opinion that the Selective Service System (SSS) is still necessary; if the United States is to remain prepared for any war, as it should, it is necessary for a draft to be in place, so that any such conflict can be won. However, I do not think the SSS should go any farther than a military draft. If this system is changed to incorporate drafting for community service or any other purposes aside from service in the armed forces, it would be infringing upon the rights of the people and bordering on authoritarianism, which history has proven to be ineffective and unsuccessful. This is because it would then be infringing upon every citizens natural and unalienable right of liberty, as stated in this great nation's Declaration of Independence. The only reason drafting for military service is not infringing upon individual rights is due to Article I of the Constitution, which establishes the role of Congress, where it states the need for national defense and Congress' control of the military.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to review my input into your inquiry of the usefulness of the SSS. I hope it shall prove useful in your task.</p>
3/14/2019	<p>If the Selective Service System is to continue, it is necessary for all Americans to be required to sign up. This would allow the armed forces to draft the best individuals for roles most suites for them, while also helping to eliminate some of the feelings of frustration experienced by males in the United States currently. Furthermore, since diversity is a large issue in American society, this would also help improve the thoughts and opinions regarding the armed forces by increasing diversity in the military. Lastly, since women may now serve in combat roles in the armed forces, a male-only required registration policy may likely soon be deemed unconstitutional.</p> <p>It is my opinion that the Selective Service System (SSS) is still necessary; if the United States is to remain prepared for any war, as it should, it is necessary for a draft to be in place, so that any such conflict can be won. However, I do not think the SSS should go any farther than a military draft. If this system is changed to incorporate drafting for community service or any other purposes aside from service in the armed forces, it would be infringing upon the rights of the people and bordering on authoritarianism, which history has proven to be ineffective and unsuccessful. This is because it would then be infringing upon every citizens natural and unalienable right of liberty, as stated in this great nation's Declaration of Independence. The only reason drafting for military service is not infringing upon individual rights is due to Article I of the Constitution, which establishes the role of Congress, where it states the need for national defense and Congress' control of the military.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to review my input into your inquiry of the usefulness of the SSS. I hope it shall prove useful in your task.</p>

3/15/2019	<p>RESPECTFULLY.</p> <p>The mandatory drafting of women.</p> <p>What will you do if the woman is pregnant when the draft is used?</p> <p>What will you do when women get pregnant while in the army because they wanted to get married and have children as part of their calling while they are young and healthy?</p> <p>There will be a void in that spot and how will you fill it immediately like it would need to be filled for security reasons?</p> <p>Will you then mandate all drafted women to take the pill, which is considered a first class carcinogen, just to make sure the women do not get pregnant?</p> <p>I believe this whole scenario will have nothing but bad consequences.</p> <p>Respectfully, Mrs. Chris Faflik wife and mother of 5 adult children Who I hope will bring the joy of grandchildren to us some day!!!</p>
3/17/2019	<p>I am a retired female Air Force officer. I joined the Air Force in 1967 and served TWO voluntary tours in SEA, one of which I voluntarily extended. Of course, I was not in combat. I'm not sure what, if anything, the selective service accomplishes, but I believe if men have to register, why shouldn't women? Why should men be required to potentially sacrifice their lives, but not women? My two main concerns regarding this, though, are (1) the high number of reported sexual harassment and rape cases among women, and how the victims are treated, and how so often the perpetrators are not even punished at all - I am not aware of this being such a big problem when I was active duty, but perhaps that was because we were afraid (with good reason) to report it. (2) If a woman is taken captive in combat, she is more likely to be tortured sexually than a man would be. On the other hand, our male POWs in Vietnam and Hanoi were treated pretty horrendously, though not sexually. From what I've read by women who have served in combat, they knew what they were signing up for, and they are proud to have fought side by side with other women as well as men, and to have fought just as successfully and effectively.</p>
3/18/2019	<p>As the mother of two sons, it troubles me to think that they are required to register for the potential draft, especially now when we have a lunatic illegitimately occupying our White House. All of our military is volunteer-based at this time, and I feel selective service should apply to something different, something positive, something that would not terrify mothers across the country. Hate is an epidemic in our country at this time, and I think if every citizen was required to perform a year of community service when they turn 18, they would learn so much about themselves and others. Being in service to others takes you out of yourself, and opens your eyes to worlds you didn't know existed. Service implies kindness to others, showing hospitality, giving of yourself and not expecting anything in kind. I would like to see us applying those principles at home. After a year of community service, everyone would accrue enough hours to apply towards college credits. If you tie in community service along with higher education, imagine what the next generation could be.</p>

3/19/2019	<p>I strongly believe that mandatory draft registration for men and for women is not in the best interests of anyone. Please discontinue draft for men and do not add women. Thank you for all that you do!</p> <p>Annette Schmidt US Citizen</p>
3/19/2019	<p>Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? Absolutely not.</p> <p>Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? Absolutely not. End the possibility of draft.</p>
3/19/2019	<p>My story is probably typical. A college student (Hobart College) with lack-luster grades, in 1966, seeing the shadow of the Dean’s boot, I elected to enlist (Army Intelligence) to avoid the draft. I left the Army in 1969 and returned to college, got much better grades and benefited from GI Bill, and my “world view” was greatly enhanced. Several of my job offers after college, related to my military experience. I have two observations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The presence of “civilian,” not carrier personnel did act as a bit of a check and balance on Headquarters thinking. (I was at SHAPE/NATO in Brussels) 2. Add my name to the chorus of people who think that broad-scale national service is a good idea, and is a great way to qualify for higher education assistance from the government. <p>National service, of course, means a lot more than just military. The marketing of the various forms of service though might mean that harder service might earn more educational benefits.</p> <p>I have been really impressed with the former Peace Corps graduates I have meet. Talk about a better world view and understanding. As noted above, I question whether or not 18 is the best age for some to enter college.</p> <p>Want help for collage expenses? Do National Service! Broad based service? Yes! Mandatory? I’d have to think about that more.</p> <p>Dane Wells, Hobart College, 1971 (for Mr Gearan's benefit) </p>
3/19/2019	<p>As a volunteer of many nonprofit organizations that work to support public land agencies in natural resources and recreation management, I see first hand how these federal agencies do not have the capacity to address the backlog of trail maintenance and related work. There is a definite need for young adults in service programs to fill this gap. I have had the pleasure of working alongside many AmeriCorps crews who provide a tremendous service to federal land-management agencies and local communities to address this need. The work could not be done without their efforts. There are many barriers though for these young adults to be able to serve, which include the requirement to maintain health insurance (which can be cost prohibitive) and the fact that their education stipend is unfairly subject to federal income taxes. Overall, it is critical to expand the service year program to enable support of public-land management and provide workforce training, and, in doing so, these young adults should receive benefits such as healthcare and tax-free education award for their hard work and dedication.</p>

3/20/2019	The military draft is likely still a necessary component of U.S. national security; in case of any sort of national emergency (perhaps conflict with other nations or something of the sort), existing military and conscripts can be mobilized to deter the threat. That being said, the military draft should likely include both men and women, as women can now serve in the military in all positions (including combat roles). It is somewhat ludicrous to argue that women are incapable of serving in the military, as many honourable and courageous women have served and will continue to serve in the future. It is unwise to uphold a 1980 ruling regarding women in the draft, as their position in the military has drastically changed since then, and it has been proven that women are equally as capable as men are of engaging in combat if both men and women are trained properly.
3/20/2019	I support any and all initiatives to increase national service, including increasing the living allowance and making the ed award tax free. This would make a service term more attainable for young people and retirees who have time to serve, but need stable income to live on their own. For young people, national service provide valuable training to bridge the gap between high school or college and working in a professional setting.
3/21/2019	<p>Either one believes in Freedom or one believes in Slavery. Conscription is Slavery. Freedom cannot be defended with Slavery. You cannot defend something by first destroying the very thing one claims to be defending. I doesn't work that way. In 1971 I served 6 months at the Safford Federal Prison Camp because I refused to take a physical exam and submit to induction. I would do It again in a heart beat. The draft and the War in Vietnam were both immoral. I was born with a congenital heart defect and would never have qualified for Military Service. Abolish the Draft and the Selective Service. It is simply the American thing to do.</p> <p>Robert Pike</p>
3/21/2019	<p>Either one believes in Freedom or one believes in Slavery. Conscription is Slavery. Freedom cannot be defended with Slavery. You cannot defend something by first destroying the very thing one claims to be defending. I doesn't work that way. In 1971 I served 6 months at the Safford Federal Prison Camp because I refused to take a physical exam and submit to induction. I would do It again in a heart beat. The draft and the War in Vietnam were both immoral. I was born with a congenital heart defect and would never have qualified for Military Service. Abolish the Draft and the Selective Service. It is simply the American thing to do.</p> <p>Robert Pike</p>
3/21/2019	I think it would be good for younger people to be in couraged to serve in the national guard and get hands on training rather than college. If the government quit doing grants and loans it would make the national guard more appealing. Would also like the pledge of allegiance to be brought back I know at the time I didn't much care for it but as I get older it inspires me and reaffirms to me that we must stand together as a whole or fall as a whole. Would also like to see more programs to help young people aspire to hold public office one day. Not one kid ever said I want to be a congress person win I grow up. Maybe a President but it's because people don't realize sometimes that both congress and judges play a very important role in our lives because they write and enforce a big part of our laws. Had I a chance to do over I would probably have went for public office because I really think laws should be written so that everyone would plainly understand there rights. I also believe Government should be limited as to only what is essential to both defend our sovereignty and freedom. If people felt they could make a difference more people would be out to hold office. The people need a way of getting laws they don't agree on up for reconsideration and at that point it should be put out threw text messages the details of the law and a few days later a way of voting yea or nay on rather the law stays and goes into effect. The more people feel there voice is heard and headed the more they will be willing to get involved.

3/21/2019	<p>I think it would be good for younger people to be encouraged to serve in the national guard and get hands on training rather than college. If the government quit doing grants and loans it would make the national guard more appealing. Would also like the pledge of allegiance to be brought back I know at the time I didn't much care for it but as I get older it inspires me and reaffirms to me that we must stand together as a whole or fall as a whole. Would also like to see more programs to help young people aspire to hold public office one day. Not one kid ever said I want to be a congress person when I grow up. Maybe a President but it's because people don't realize sometimes that both congress and judges play a very important role in our lives because they write and enforce a big part of our laws. Had I a chance to do over I would probably have went for public office because I really think laws should be written so that everyone would plainly understand their rights. I also believe Government should be limited as to only what is essential to both defend our sovereignty and freedom. If people felt they could make a difference more people would be out to hold office. The people need a way of getting laws they don't agree on up for reconsideration and at that point it should be put out through text messages the details of the law and a few days later a way of voting yea or nay on rather the law stays and goes into effect. The more people feel their voice is heard and heard the more they will be willing to get involved.</p>
3/21/2019	<p>I firmly believe that ALL Americans should be required to serve a period of time providing service to their country - including men and women, and the service not limited to the military but including all sorts of work - from building trails in parks to building affordable housing in cities to health clinics or schools in rural and isolated communities. We have a lot of work that needs to be done in America. Young people should be required to give a share of time to contribute to it. Rev. Jim Conn, Retired United Methodist Minister, former Mayor of Santa Monica, CA.</p>
3/21/2019	<p>1. Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? In the book 'How Full is Your Bucket? For Kids', the protagonist of the story, Felix, discovers that when he contributes positively to the well being of others by filling their bucket, this exchange results in his bucket being filled as well. In 2006 I served for the first time through AmeriCorps*NCCC and this is the same truth that I discovered through my own experience. When you give of yourself through kindness, through service, you receive. What is it that you receive exactly? For me it has been confidence, a belief that I can impact issues bigger than myself, a reaffirmation of the values that I hold by applying them in practice, a better understanding and appreciation of others who come from different backgrounds, but share a commitment to a shared purpose, and the realization of who I aspire to be and the community I aspire to see.</p> <p>2. How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? Pay for School. If you contribute 3 years to Military, National, and/or Public Service, there should be sufficient money made available to pay for the average cost to attend a state institution. I think making agreements with select regional Universities that will cost control tuition to attract this revenue stream could also be attractive for those institutions. Introducing civics programming throughout the K-12 education process also seems like a means of creating an ethic that weaves throughout a lifetime as opposed to one that is marketed or imposed upon a person when they are already an adult. Also, to attract a broad swath of people from all economic classes, the total incentive system may have to look like less of a sacrifice. For example, if a person grows up in poverty with limited options available, I imagine the idea of sacrificing potential revenue and stability to serve in AmeriCorps may seem like a fool's errand unless the incentives are such that they present a clear pathway out of poverty. My dad joined the Army and served for nearly 30 years with the 101st Airborne Division because it provided an avenue to a career and stability for his family. His Military service then paved the way for my Sister and I's opportunities which, in many ways, allowed me the luxury of serving 2 years in AmeriCorps. I think there is opportunity within AmeriCorps to provide similar avenues to access the American dream which seems to be increasingly difficult to attain. Oh, and more opportunities to serve, if an ethic is to be created, there must be opportunities to meet these aspirations.</p>

3/22/2019	<p>Does service have inherent value? If so, what is it? The value in service is in the training and experience it gives. I found after college I still needed training and preparation and service gave me that. My work also, made a difference in the community I worked. Providing an under resourced area with well trained workers can have a long term impact on the people living in the community.</p> <p>How does the U.S. increase the desire for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve? There needs to be opportunities for people with and without college degrees to serve. The U.S. does a fine job with military recruitment in schools and at well placed recruitment centers. Recruitment for non-military service would capture people interested in serving their country but who may not see themselves as a good fit for military service.</p> <p>What are the barriers to participation in military, national or public service? For some people a barrier to service is location. Many people don't choose it because of the low-pay. The most important barrier is that people don't know about non-military service options.</p> <p>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? Recruit college graduates.</p> <p>Is the military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security? Absolutely not, it hasn't been used an many years and plenty of people would volunteer. Nobody should be compelled by the government to do service.</p> <p>Are modifications to the selective service system needed? It should include all genders or not exist. I also think it puts poor people at a disadvantage. Youth from families with money can afford to not sign up for selective service. Low-income youth, may depend on federal aid, and thus will have to sign up, potentially for something that will put them in mortal danger. Perhaps, an option to do National service or military service if selected could be an option.</p> <p>Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible? Mandatory work for low compensation shouldn't even be legal in this country. As someone who served, I know the value of service, but I also have a strong belief in personal freedom, mandatory service goes against this.</p>
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3/22/2019	<p>I feel that military, national or public service has inherent value in teaching and informing young Americans in what they have, how it was won for them, and what it takes to maintain those freedoms. I was taught that I should be an active participant in our government during classes in high school, but it was not instilled in me until I entered basic military training. That was the point where as an adult, I had to make the decisions of how I was going to move forward with my life and that those decisions would not only affect me, but that they were going to affect hundreds, thousands, and potentially millions of others. I understand that not all can physically/mentally serve in the military, but there are so many other opportunities for those same basic principles to be conveyed in civilian service to this great nation.</p> <p>I would agree that the military draft is a necessary component of US national security. I believe the selective service system should be expanded to require anyone that wishes to remain a US citizen, without regard to gender or orientation, must be registered. I would go on to say that registration with the selective service along with mandatory service be a requirement of attaining full citizenship. That is to say, if one chooses to not register or participate in some form of approved service, then that person forfeits their rights and privileges of remaining a citizen of the US.</p>
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3/24/2019	<p>things to consider =</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - currently less than 1 percent of the U.S. population makes the decision to serve, and eligibility is one factor; another is propensity to serve, which is about 15 percent of those eligible - Young Americans (male and female) need an experience where they are "working and learning" that with rights come responsibilities, and where they can gain a sense of what might be described as "having skin in the game". - the principles and values veterans learned in the military – integrity, leadership, teamwork, selfless service – greatly benefit our country, so a military type basic training course for everyone, as part of a national service program would benefit our Nation - having "skin in the game" requires "participation" regardless of being paid or volunteering. development and implementation of a National Service Program that establishes reasonable eligibility requirements and requires ALL men & women reaching 18 years of age to register and participate. Such a program would require a basic training program (either military basic training or something similar) and require a subsequent period of service with either a military service (active, guard, or reserve, including Coast Guard and US Public Health Service) or non-profit agencies serving some level of public interest. It could also include the concept of the old Civilian Conservation Corps to address infrastructure. Homeland Security and Border/Immigration control is another area that could be included. Peace Corps, Americorps, and national non-profits like Red Cross, etc are also areas that could be included. - the principles and values veterans learned in the military – integrity, leadership, teamwork, selfless service – greatly benefit our country, so a military type basic training course for everyone, as part of a national service program would benefit our Nation. - teaching the concept of volunteering, plus appropriate history and service to nation in schools, needs to begin in grade school, to encourage kids to get their parents involved - according to a recently released survey, Americans are woefully uneducated about the most basic facts of our history, to the point where most couldn't even pass a basic citizenship test, so how can we expect them to "volunteer" their service ? Young people performed worst on the test. Out of all test-takers under the age of 45, only 19 percent passed. Given these numbers, it's no wonder why so many young Americans say they would rather live under socialism than capitalism, and have little understanding of what that would mean in reality. Perhaps it's time we take a harder look at the public school system that's failing students and leaving generations of Americans without a basic understanding of our past. - reconsider the discharge of immigrant recruits, as it robs a U.S. military that is struggling to meet enlistment goals and profoundly betrays the very national values these young people seek to defend
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3/24/2019

Respectfully to whom it may concern:

The Commission defines service as "a personal commitment of time, energy, and talent to a mission that contributes to the public good by protecting the nation and its citizens, strengthening communities, or promoting the general social welfare." That is all well and good as long as our freedoms in our Constitution of the United States are not put aside and this mission is offered with incentive benefits and not with the threat that certain humane benefits will be withheld unless this servitude is complied with.

Personal commitment should be made freely for quality purposes. You can not force heart felt patriotic commitment. The oppression of one groups ideologies onto another group for forced labor is not the actions of a free government.

I do want to state though that, I do not believe or for see that the exemplary quality of service that has been part of our American military since the Revolutionary War which was fought and won for Freedom of Religion, Freedom of the Press, Freedom of Speech and the Right to Bare Arms, will continue to be, if there is forced commitment, with the loss of these freedoms and certain benefits if free Americans do not comply.

I sincerely hope that this is not what the future agenda is. I sincerely hope that I am mistaken. i would also like to say that women should not have a mandatory draft. Women can get pregnant. how would you stop this? By forcing mandatory birth control, which is not !00% effective. A pregnant women will have to be taken out of commission and now you will have a vacant spot that will further weaken our army.

For the record I would like to say that this info from your Staff memorandum is not according to my beliefs as a free America.

"Punishments or sanctions for failing to meet a service requirement could range from ineligibility for government benefits or employment to fines or imprisonment. The program could offer incentives such as completion certificates, educational benefits, preference in federal hiring, or even a tax-free award to every American granted at birth and received by citizens after their service term. Whatever means are in place to encourage compliance, a well-structured mandatory service program would require a system to monitor participation." (p. 5, emphasis added)

This does not sound like a free America to me.

I STRONGLY VOTE NO FOR THIS!

Thank you for allowing input.

Sincerely,

A Proud American Citizen

Mrs. Cris Fafk

3/26/2019

Col. (Ret) Charles R. Baker

[REDACTED]

Parrish, FL

[REDACTED]

Dr. Jill A. Rough

National Commission on Military, National and Public Service

2530 Crystal Drive

Suite 1000, Box #63

Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Dr. Rough:

I served as a sub-committee head in the Department of the Army's Women in the Army Study 0/1978. It had become apparent that women would be needed to make up for a 300,000 shortfall of eligible males in the enlistment age groups.

In the four sub-committees, I was the only male officer from a combat branch -Infantry. I was a Lt. Col., a graduate of West Point, and an infantry officer who had been a company commander and battalion operations officer in 1968 within the 1st Cavalry Division, to include the Battles for Hue during Tet 68, Khe Sahn and A Shau Valley. Our battalion was 60 - 70% draftees, most of whom performed magnificently. My decorations included two Silver Stars and a Purple Heart.

The Committee Head and two of the sub-committee heads were female officers. The four subcommittee teams travelled to units around the world and surveyed personnel from all ranks.

The key findings concerned women's comparative upper-body strength, and concern by men about their leadership traits with respect to leading men. We briefed the DCSPER of the Army in detail.

Although I personally felt at that time that a woman should be able to serve in-any"fyj:fe- of unit, the Committee Chief and the DCSPER concluded that the time was not right to suggest a woman be a rifleman, or a tank crewman. The draft had been stopped only 5 years earlier.

Being the best writer in the group, I was tasked to draft the language for the Congressional Record, establishing women's exclusion from 5€r.:ice in infantry, armored and direct support artillery battalions. This guideline stood for almost 40 years. Since that time women have proved themselves in many combatant situations, and it is a new day.

Having said all this, I would point out that a woman in an infantry squad or a special ops team, even though she can meet the physical requirements, will still be on tenuous ground until she proves herself in a tough situation. The last thing these direct combat units will need is a woman who does not volunteer to be there. So, should women be included in the draft?

Absolutely. Should drafted women be sent to infantry, armored, and cavalry battalions? Only if they volunteer and can meet the physical requirements.

With respect to your commission, of special interest to me is articulating the many reasons why young people should start the first year or two of their adult lives in military or service organizations. Most will gain levels of maturity, self-discipline, interpersonal skills, and physical health that are not otherwise available in today's culture. Ceasing the draft in 1973 was a mistake, born of the disastrous outcome of Vietnam, and solidified with the end of the Cold War. To the extent the national government intends to reinstate a properly managed draft in the future, we need to start selling the benefits now. These efforts need to target parents as well as their young people.

3/26/2019	<p>CUSHMAN D. ANTHONY ██████████ YARMOUTH, ME ██████████ ██████████</p> <p>March 4,2019 National Commission of Military and National Service 2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Box 63 Arlington, VA 22202</p> <p>Dear Friends, I am a former officer in the Naval Reserve, as well as a retired attorney. You ask, is the military draft still a necessary component of U.S. National Security. The clear answer is no. We have not used the draft for that purpose for decades now, and it is useless for making us more secure. Any warfare in this era would be unable to use drafted manpower in any useful way, according to all the experts that I have read. It has no inherent value. Moreover, some young men find it offensive and against their conscience to register for the draft. Under current law, that decision has serious consequences, especially the loss of access to government service or job training programs or student fmancial aid. That does nobody any good at all, and skews the enrollment in all of those programs. That is contrary to the public interest, it seems to me. The military draft has become an anachronism, as well as a huge waste of tax dollars. Get rid of it, please. Thank you. Yours truly, {~/~/ Cushman D. Anthony</p>
3/26/2019	<p>Dear Mr. Heck Chairman, I truly believe that with your organization could help every single veteran that gave his or her life and also with PTSD and my dad never got the support that he ever needed. I've dedicated myself helping a lot of PTSD war veterans as residential Lowes manager dealing with veterans and taking care of them from WWII. Vietnam war vets, Afghanistan, Drugs n alcohol worst killers of veterans are suicide also at very high rates. My late step-grandfather fought in Normany and received the purple heart. May Jesus Christ always be with you John 3:16. Sincerely Michael Angelo of War Veterans.</p>
3/26/2019	<p>The selective service draft is completely unconstitutional in forcing people against their will to do the governments bidding regardless of that person agrees. With that being said of the draft shall continue, than women need to be apart because it has already been ruled unconstitutional and sexist to make the choice based off of gender</p>

3/26/2019	Registration for the draft should be ended, period. It is an archaic system, obsolete and inherently unfair, since those starting conflicts are never asked to participate personally in them.
3/26/2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Military service has inherent value by keeping us strong for any possible emergency either at home or abroad. 2. "Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country" says it all. We need to instill nationalism back into our youths. 3. Giving up x number of months(years) for your country and putting your other life on hold to serve a cause 4. The only way you are going to get those critical skills, for the most part, is either through a draft, Reserve or Guard component. We have to get these people interested in serving the needs of our country. 5. YES!!! We need the registration so that when we need the manpower we have the registration to implement the draft otherwise we will waste time getting to that point. There may come a time when the volunteer military is not enough to sustain the need. 6. YES!! include women in registration. We live in a world today where everyone is equal with rights, pay, social status etc. We have had women in the service for quite some time. They are now a vital part of our military from the volunteer service to our service academies. It's well past the time that women be included in the registration for the draft no matter how unpopular politically it will be. 7. Tough question. I have always felt that each of us should do something for our country much like Israel. Things like the Peace Corp comes to mind. There are others we could do or at least try to do. Somehow a spirit of nationalism has to be instilled in our up and coming generations. <p>I am a retired veteran and very proud of my service time.</p> <p>Thanks for listening</p> <p>John Romano</p>
3/28/2019	<p>As a female Veteran of the United States Army, I do not feel women should be added to the draft. I came from a family whose family members served in different US forces. My concerns are that many females are school teachers. Not only that but we are pro creators of life. Many kids are having kids at young ages. Many are single parents. Many do not have a support system. What happens to the children in this situation? The "new genders" have a sense of entitlement, a pat on the back for showing up to work. They have not learned or just don't have pride in our USA. As I said, I am a Veteran, I have pride in our country. However with all of the wars, political embraces and the feeling that "voting does not count" what is it you are really trying to accomplish? I do believe in equality</p> <p>But media shows inequality everyday. How do we get back the USA that our forefathers died for?</p>

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3/28/2019	<p>It is concerning to me that PeaceCorps is only taking a 3% hit in the President's budget, but National Service is zeroed out. Our country is rife with social issues and natural disasters continue to have significant impact. I do not understand prioritizing international service over national service. I support PeaceCorps, but not at the expense of national service.</p>
3/28/2019	<p>JFK left us a legacy that is unknown to young Americans because it is not part of our educational system. President obama gave college graduates the opportunity to erase their federal student loans if they served in a non profit (501c3) for 10 years. Perhaps two years of military service, 4 years in teach America or similar organizations would wake upend energize young Americans to eliminate a substantial burden, serve their country and respect it.</p> <p>I believe that national l service is a key factor, many countries require it and forgiving federal student loans is the carrot that would bring national recognition.</p>

3/29/2019 Submitted by Ronald E Milne on 3-29-2019 via inet.

Number 5 & 6: The DRAFT.

Yes, the USA needs a selective service system to sustain military readiness. Why?, to protect the USA from our enemies.

The voluntary military system is too expensive & inadequate for our future needs to defend us - so we don't have to subjugate to an enemy/ies.

Being as the USA strives for 100% EQUALITY amongst all USA citizens - we "should" have all Americans (MALE & FEMALE) register for selective service (the DRAFT) when they obtain 18 years of age.

In the interest of EQUALITY between the sexes, the USA is spending an exhorbinat amount of money to get females in combat MOS's (infantry, armour, artillery, Special Operations Forces, etc).

Good for those females that are successful. The problem is that very few females have the physical attributes to qualify. A large percentage fail. Many of them get medical discharges & VA benefits because alot of these women overstress their muscles, backs, knees - trying to qualify.

To summarize, I believe the USA will always need a selective service system. I also believe the only reason we don't have an active draft presently is because women would have to register - to be equal to the men.

GOD BLESS AMERICA
AND OUR CITIZENS

Regards,

Ronald E Milne (Viet Nam Vet)

March 29, 2010

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Ft. Worth, TX [REDACTED]

I'd also volunteer (again - 1st time in the US Army - July 1968) to be a member of a selective service committee.

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3/30/2019 FR: Matt Nicodemus, Co-founder & Executive Committee member, Graduation Pledge Alliance; Director, Global Nonviolent Revolution Now; 1980s-era U.S. draft resister

TO: Keri Lowry, Director of Government Affairs & Public Engagement,
National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service

March 29, 2019

Thanks for getting back to me with reply to my query, Keri.

I'm disappointed to hear I wasn't selected to testify during the coming National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service hearings in Washington, D.C., particularly since the testimony I was planning on giving, outlining the full depth, breadth, and length of popular opposition and resistance that any future U.S. compulsory military service will face, is essential for government planners to understand so that they don't make the mistake of initiating yet another conscription program which will, due in part to that opposition and resistance, fail massively, as has the current system operated by the Selective Service System.

Of course, I will submit my comments to the Commission in writing, but that will mean my words will be more easily ignored by those who wish to move ahead toward continuation and expansion of the nation's draft system. At exactly the time when America so desperately needs to be reducing the size and scope of its military activity in the world, to be taking steps toward actually increasing global security and decreasing warfare and all of the suffering attendant with the machinery and mindset of martial conflict, these myopic planners display no true leadership, minimize the human element, and nearly completely ignore the non-human environment, as they help keep our citizenry and the rest of the world on the horrid path of permanent war in order to maintain American's global dominance and their own massive pipelines feeding the military-industrial-intelligence complex with the precious resources that should instead be serving the greatest, pressing needs of life in the U.S. and on Earth.

I hope, Keri, that the NCMNPS commissioners, and the Congress to which they will report next year, receive in large volume statements from U.S. citizens who plan to refuse compliance with any and all future conscription for military service or compulsory national 'service' and/or participate in support for resisters and/or organize the mass movement that will frustrate our government's enslavement of Americans to kill, maim, die, and be maimed, in body and mind, for a country that professes to defend freedom, liberty, and peace. I'm envisioning that peace and social justice organizations across the nation will solicit such statements, many in video form, and will not only send those statements to the government but will also encourage and support additional future noncompliance by running those statements continuously and in growing number on one or more websites.

Together for Peace, Justice, and Earth,

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