



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 received during the month of August. 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
8/1/19	<p data-bbox="212 233 359 261">Gentlemen:</p> <p data-bbox="212 375 1940 440">I hope you are aware of the article posted on the “Task and Purpose News” website: https://taskandpurpose.com/military-children-born-abroad-citizenship</p> <p data-bbox="212 553 2039 651">I am a retired Navy JAG,, who served with Commissioner Steve Barney. Both of my children were born overseas to myself and my wife. We are both U.S. citizens born in the continental U.S. If my children were born under this ‘new’ policy they would not be eligible for immediate U.S. citizenship and would have to obtain an immigration visa to enter the U.S.</p> <p data-bbox="212 764 2028 829">If this policy was in effect when my children were born, I may not have chosen to enter Naval Service, or remain on active duty to retirement. I certainly would have declined any billets in foreign countries.</p> <p data-bbox="212 943 2039 1008">It is my considered opinion that this ‘new’ policy will severely impact individuals considering military or government service. I implore the Commission to strenuously oppose this policy.</p> <p data-bbox="212 1122 254 1149">v/r</p> <p data-bbox="212 1263 411 1291">Erick Armstrong</p> <p data-bbox="212 1333 510 1360">CAPT JAGC USN (retired)</p>

8/1/19

Dear Honorable Joe Heck, Nat'l Service Director Sir,

This is a photo of me participating in an Americorps 2000,

Backcountry, California Conservation Corps, Del Norte Center

In the Stanislaus National Forest, Carson Iceberg -Emmigrant

Wilderness, trails crew. For this Americorps, service I was

tutoring a group of younger children from South Central Los

Angeles, Compton, area. My crew invited these kids from the

city, into our community, where we taught them the lessons

of Hard Work, Low Pay, Miserable conditions, and More...

It was a significant challenge. Bringing our worlds together.

Productively, and safely. I actually never used my Americorps,

scholarship, and have been thinking of doing another one.

In Santa Ana, California an Americorps, operates out of a business called "OneOC," offering 10 thousand in scholarships. where I'd be able to participate in 4 service projects lasting a few years. This would help me and my family tremendously.

At this time in the photo, it was in AUG 2000. A time when many people turned from the outdoors to the Internet of Things.

Starring at countless hours each day to the amazement of a screen.

Either on Video Games, Movies, Chat-Rooms, and much much More.

The reason I didn't use my first Americorps, scholarship was because

I served ten years in the US ARMY, and US ARMY Reserves. Deployed

twice, and eventually Separated Honorably.

Thank You,

Noel Colenzo



8/1/19	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>I wanted to take a moment and comment on Staff Memo "Universal Service Hearing: Should Service be Mandatory?" and express my frustration at the Selective Service process overall, which has put honest, upstanding men like myself in a big hole professionally.</p> <p>I am 43 years old, living in Florida and am unable to get a job with State of Florida due to there being no record of my signing up for Selective Service. I remember specifically when a member of the military came into our classroom at Edgewater HS in Orlando in 1994, explained what Selective Service, was and we all signed postcard-size cards with our name and information on them because that's what we were basically told to do. That gentleman then disappeared into the night and none of us ever thought twice about whether our cards would actually be registered into a system and certainly never contemplated the thought of Selective Service impacting our ability to get a job, get a loan, etc. Yet, here I am with no way to prove whether I signed up for Selective Service or not. This was back before computers were as ubiquitous as they are now and prior to the mass adoption of the Internet which included more secure ways of tracking information, and our future rested on some card we filled out and given to some stranger and then inputted into some system, all of which was completely out of our control. The amazing part is that once you miss that 18-26 year old window, you're never able to ever sign up again. I'm not sure how that's fair? It's not as though I was dodging a possible draft, and I never knowingly or willingly tried to avoid signing my card. Yet our federal government has made it so there's no possible way to correct a mistake that wasn't even mine. After doing some extensive googling (as you can imagine I did, once I remembered what Selective Service even was), I know there are tens of thousands of other men in my situation across the country who end up being denied a job or a loan because of something they did or didn't do 10, 20, 30 years ago.</p> <p>I'm hopeful this issue gets resolved at the federal level ASAP, and those of us caught up in this tangled, messy web through no fault of our own, are allowed to live our lives without being punished by a system that even the former head of the agency admits is inaccurate and unfair.</p> <p>I'm not sure what the answer is to finding Americans who are able to fight for their country if needed, but I feel confident that relying on an archaic, flawed and fundamentally unconstitutional system is probably not the appropriate way.</p> <p>Thank you for reading my letter submission and I hope this process gets eliminated for the sake of thousands of hard working Americans.</p> <p>All the best,</p> <p>James Miller </p>
8/1/19	<p>I recently became intrigued by the notion of mandatory national service after reading an op-ed on the CNN website. The author alluded to Israel's requirement that all citizens serve in their military, and I reflected positively on the two employees I supervised over the last several years and their professionalism and sense of duty regarding their work. I started thinking about the different kinds of training opportunities available to our young people who are uninterested in, or unable to attend, college. What a benefit it would be to their future earning potential if those training opportunities were expanded. I also thought of my own sadness and disappointment on the occasions when I have encountered a sense of entitlement among some of</p>

my fellow Americans, who seem to enjoy this country's many benefits without feeling an obligation to give back. I believe service has many benefits, including increasing exposure not just to problems within our borders, but to potential solutions and to the systems and organizations that are working toward solutions. A positive service experience can increase a person's sense of patriotism, as we see our neighbors working together to address the nations' challenges.

I did not know about this Commission at the time I read the article, but spent some months ruminating on my own thoughts. Last week, I came across an article in WorldView Magazine (I am currently in Liberia serving with Peace Corps Response) soliciting input from all Americans, and was eager to email the Commission, though my sentiments come near the end of your work and have likely been expressed already by others, and more eloquently! I have come to feel that Universal Service should be expected bordering on required in the USA. It seems to me that there would be multiple benefits and few drawbacks. In addition to military and reserve service, as well as currently available national service options, I think emergency health services and disaster response would be two obvious choices for sectors that would a) benefit from extra hands, and b) provide important skills that would be beneficial for all citizens. After their service, these individuals would forever be a resource for the country in times of need.

There is a serious national conversation about the escalating costs of higher education, and while some have called for making a college education free, I think it is prudent to require something more of our citizens before extending additional free education. Perhaps a year of national service could be traded as a waiver for two years of tuition at a community college. A stick rather than a carrot approach could reduce the maximum possible social security earnings of those who refuse to participate in a year of service, or to make it a general requirement of University admission, on par with a high school diploma/GED and national test scores. There will also be the question of how to train, feed, house, and/or pay these individuals, and how much such a program will cost. I like to imagine costs will be mitigated by the free labor participants will supply, or even that national service will end up saving the government money. Obviously, the details of how to implement such a program will become thorny and complicated, and I am eager to follow the progress of this Commission. Thank you for embarking on this important work!

As a side note, I think it is completely necessary that women be required to register for Selective Service along with men, should this national registry continue. The arguments against are the same as the arguments against allowing women to fill combat roles or any other area of life where women were historically restricted from participation. If we trust women to perform equally in all aspects of public life, we should expect them to serve equally.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Regards,
Kea Woodruff

8/1/2019

Honestly, I think the selective service system is outdated and should be abolished entirely. I firmly believe that serving in the military should be a choice of the citizen and should not be required of anyone. Serving one's country should be an honor and not a burden. We have so many American Citizens that are willing and proud to fight for their country. I don't believe it's necessary to "force" people to enlist and threaten them with imprisonment and other harsh punishments if they don't.

8/1/2019	<p>Please either raise the age limit to reflect a healthier society, or abolish age discrimination for military service entirely, to reflect that of every other First World/Five Eye/English-speaking country. We are the last hold-outs...</p> <p>Australian Army Commando (Special Forces)-up to age 60 British Army Reservist-up to age 52 Canadian Armed Forces-up to age 57 New Zealand-no upper age limit</p>
8/3/2019	<p>Hell yes, young women should be required to sign up for selective service. I have long thought this. With the advent of Women's Lib, NOW and the Me Too Movement, women are asserting what they determine to be their "rights". Affirmative Action came into being and put White females and minorities ahead of men for advancementespecially in government-related jobs. Along with this relatively new advancement for these classes comes an added responsibility. That is defense of our country. Although women do serve in our armed forces they are not required to sign up for Selective Service, is my understanding. In that vein, it would seem unfair and unjust that our young men have to sign up but not young women.</p> <p>Concerning the draft, I am definitely in favor of reinstating the draft. I was drafted and later enlisted during the Vietnam conflict in 1967-70. If not a full-time army of draftees, then at least the 8-12 week Basic Training. This would increase our military readiness in case young soldiers were needed to fight a war. But, not only would it improve our readiness but would also instill something lacking in today's millennial youth, and that is RESPONSIBILITY. If not military conscription then some type of service, be it Peace Corps, Job Corps or other national service. My point is everyone should serve their country in some fashion. Newly-minted immigrants should have to serve as well in some capacity.</p>
8/5/2019	<p>I find that there are many Americans who will be willing to serve their country if the time arises, however they are unable to participate in the military currently due to a number of reasons. Forcing Americans to sign up for Selective Services only places distrust in their government and a sense of unfairness, especially considering that they see the "rich and powerful man sending the poor man to die." I believe allowing both men and women to voluntarily sign up for Selective Services without receiving consequences in regard to their careers and futures builds a trust with the government, as well as have plenty of people on standby without actively participating in the military should the time arise. If women are allowed to voluntarily sign up as well, as they are now, then the military should not be short of people to participate. The current situation saddens me greatly, even though it does not yet affect me, and I hope that the government can learn that this nation was built by the people, and the government should work with the people, not against them. Otherwise, we're no greater than other nations, especially totalitarian ones.</p>
8/6/2019	<p>It might be worth reading "LAND WARFARE PAPER 127 – LET'S TALK BUSINESS: ARMY TALENT MANAGEMENT". This is especially pertinent when it comes to discussing the loss of talent to corporate America and the difficulty in finding evaluating and training a sustainable talent pool. As a CW4 I am particularly concerned with the quality of leaders we will have competing for promotion; I fear our new retirement system is going to leave us with mediocre talent. Compulsory service may introduce a more competitive pool to our ranks. -CW4 Charles Davis, USAWOCC Ft Rucker</p>
8/9/2019	<p>I believe that a mandatory service requirement for all Americans would be a great benefit. Also, this could be used as a path to naturalization for immigrants.</p>

8/14/2019	<p>I find it most inspiring that a celebrity such as actor Robert Davi is encouraging the professed establishment experts to implement innovative proposals like the “Volunteer” Civilian Patrol-93. Individuals that Volunteer are both underestimated and unappreciated. When I concluded my tour with the paid Reserves, I affiliated with the non-pay, “Volunteer” State Defense Forces in New York and New Jersey. I found the personnel to be motivated, enthusiastic and confident.</p> <p>Under USC Title 32-109©, The mission of State Defense Forces is primarily to Augment the State’s National / Air Guards & Naval Militias. (It should be noted that NY Naval Militia has a tuition assistance program of approximately \$3500 a semester for eligible members). Over the past 30 years the National Guard of all 50 states has been reduced by more than 50%. However, the S.D.F. mission has not changed and unfortunately, the program is basically disregarded, overlooked and ignored.</p> <p>Several bills have been unsuccessfully introduced in Congress seeking to increase the readiness of State Defense Forces. The most recent, H.R. 206, introduced (over 10 years ago) in 2009 by Rep. Joe Wilson of South Carolina, would have allowed the U.S. Secretary of Defense to transfer surplus U.S. military equipment to state defense forces. Congress took no action on the measure before adjourning.</p> <p>Noting that the US military is in an ongoing recruitment crisis, the level of denial and lack of action by our elected & military officials is astonishing. In a post 9-11 world, this course of inaction is shocking.</p> <p>(Also, Mr. James Carafano from the Heritage Foundation has written numerous White Papers concerning the State Defense Force Program).</p> <p>As Stated on your website: Your 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. The State Defense Force Concept is the very essence of this exceptional endeavor. I firmly believe that innovative proposals such as the Civilian Patrol-93 linked with already Established Volunteer Organizations like the State Defense Forces, Coast Guard Aux. Civil Air Patrol, and Police Reserves would give us a solid foundation to address current and future service-related issues. A volunteer himself, Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle once said: “There’s nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer.” Thank you for your kind attention.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Sean G. Peters SGT. PAPD (Ret.) </p>
8/16/2019	<p>No to conscription. The rich and well-connected will never be required to serve and they never have. The military-congressional-industrial complex needs to end. I was in the USAF 1965-1969 and hated every minute of it. I was used as a pawn to enrich people in this country. I would do everything I could to help people evade conscription if it is reinstated. I hate the military and militarism which is what this country is all about. This country is a joke, most especially in its pretensions. Michael C Cunningham</p>

8/20/2019	<p>I believe all should serve in some capacity.</p> <p>Also, I believe the right to bear arms should be predicated with the training to use arms responsively and for use to protect homeland and American interests.</p> <p>Not everyone, male or female is suited for combat, but everyone is suited to serve and everyone should learn proper use of self protection and defense weaponry.</p>
8/27/2019	<p>I teach at an elite university (Princeton) and many of our students are unaware of the role military service can play in helping to launch a career in federal government (due e.g. to the veteran's preference in federal hiring). A number of students who want careers in federal government have chosen to volunteer once made aware of how much easier it can be to get into selective positions with that military background. This seems an area where outreach might be valuable, especially as career services offices at my school and our peers seek ways to help students enter public service careers.</p>
8/27/2019	<p>Dear sir please. Help me support me. I have no money. Sir give me free job work permit visa. Give me information the us embassy in New Delhi India. Sir help me. The poor man is not the no money, the person is a poor man is not the no money. Thank you</p>