



***Board Member  
Information  
Booklet***

## ***VISION STATEMENT***

The Selective Service will be an active partner in the national preparedness community that anticipates and responds to the changing needs of the Nation.

## ***MISSION STATEMENT***

The Selective Service System will provide trained and untrained personnel to the Department of Defense in the event of a national emergency. Also, the Selective Service System will provide an Alternative Service Program for those from the manpower pool who seek and are granted conscientious objector status.

## ***CORE VALUES***

Timeliness, fairness, equity, and respect for customers and co-workers. Flexibility, creativity, and efficiency in the fulfillment of our mission.

## ***GOALS***

- Improve the Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Registration Process
- Improve the Effectiveness and Efficiency of Personnel Delivery Processes
- Improve the Effectiveness and Efficiency of Agency Support Processes

Thank you for your interest in the Selective Service System. The following information is provided to give you a brief overview of the Selective Service System in general, and the Board Member Program specifically. This publication will not attempt to describe the many facets of board functions and operations. A thorough training program has been developed for this purpose and, if you are selected, will be provided to you at a later date.

The Selective Service System is an independent Agency within the Executive Branch of the Federal government. The legislation under which the Agency operates is the Military Selective Service Act (MSSA).

The MSSA, along with its implementing regulations, provides that the structure of the Agency include a National Headquarters, a State Headquarters in each state, and one each for New York City, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

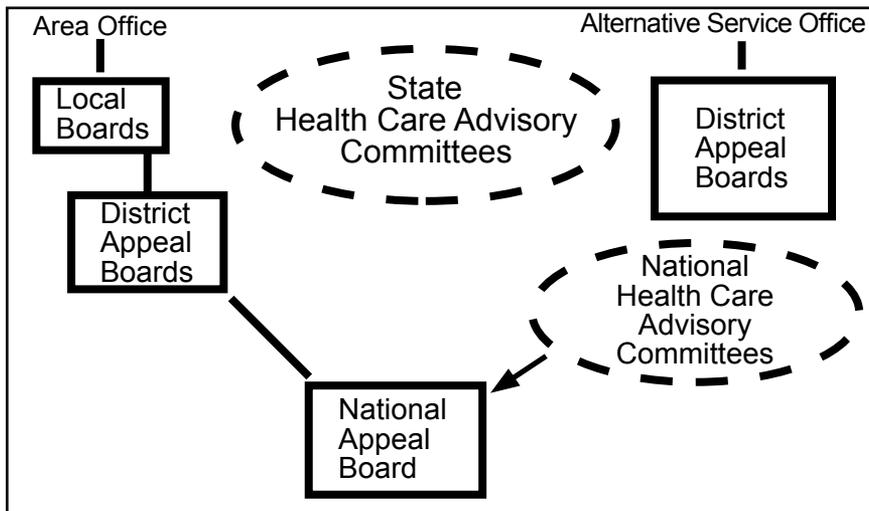
The current structure of the Selective Service System also includes three Region Headquarters. The National Headquarters and Region Headquarters make up the contingency of full-time employees of Selective Service. See **Figure 1** below.



**Figure 1 - Agency Structure**

The Mission of the Selective Service is to provide manpower to the Department of Defense for military service in the event of a national emergency declared by the Congress or the President; implement an Alternative Service Program for registrants classified as conscientious objectors; and, maintain a program to conscript health care personnel when directed. The all-volunteer armed force, instituted in 1973, was never intended to stand alone in time of emergency. In the event of conflict, the armed forces will be quickly augmented by the National Guard and the Reserves. If necessary, the Selective Service System will be mobilized to direct registrants to the Military Entrance Processing Stations (MEPS) around the country.

The first step to be taken in the event of a health care (i.e. Special Skills Draft) or general conscription would be to conduct a lottery to assign random sequence numbers to determine the order in which registrants are ordered for an Armed Forces examination, and if found qualified, inducted. If a registrant believes that he qualifies for a deferment or exemption, he may file a claim with a Selective Service Area Office. Receipt of such a claim will delay the reporting date of the registrant until his claim has been adjudicated.



**Figure 2 - Board Structure**

Information explaining the process for claiming a postponement, deferment or exemption will be available to registrants.

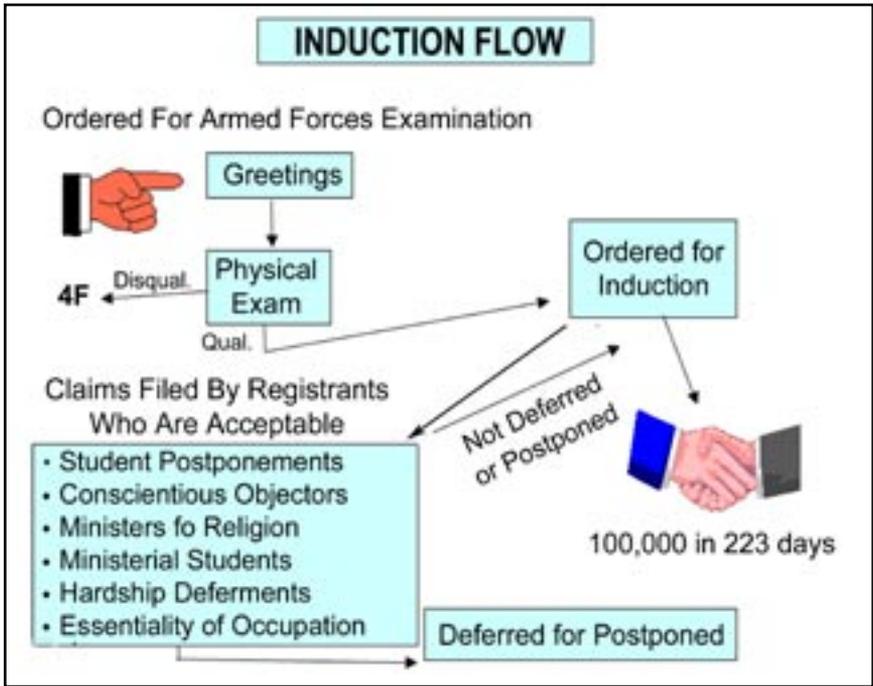
The MSSA and Selective Service regulations provide for the formation of Local Boards, allocated according to county or corresponding political subdivision. There is also a provision for appeal boards to be established according to Federal judicial districts. In addition, a National Appeal Board will be established.

The appeal boards act in cases of persons who do not agree with the classification given to them by the Local Boards. In addition, the District Appeal Boards will act on claims relating to job assignments from Alternative Service Workers. All board members serve without pay. Board Members are appointed by the Director of Selective Service in the name of the President, upon the recommendation of the Governor or comparable executive official. Board Members must reside within the area served by the board to which they are appointed. Under conditions requiring the induction of health care personnel, Selective Service will create National and State Health Care Personnel Advisory Committees comprised of medical specialists and others to provide independent advice on national and local health care issues to the Director, and to local and appeal boards.

The law requires that the membership of each board be proportionately representative of the race and national origin of the registrants in the area it serves, to the maximum extent practicable. **Figure 2**, on the previous page, identifies the Selective Service System boards and health care advisory committees.

History has shown that of those registrants reporting daily to the MEPS, approximately 50% will be found acceptable. **Figure 3**, on the next page, illustrates the critical role accurate and prompt decisions on requests for deferment and exemption play in the operation of the entire system. If these decisions are not rapid and fair, a great deal of inequity will result. Our board members,

representing the counties and local communities across the Nation, will be called upon to make these decisions. These important volunteer citizens are charged with protecting the individual rights of all registrants presenting claims. Board members will make significant judgments about each registrant’s claim for deferment or exemption from military service.



**Figure 3 - Induction Flow**

There are two types of classifications. They are “Administrative” and “Judgmental.” Administrative claims are either granted or denied by compensated personnel assigned to an Area Office. If his claim is denied, the registrant may request a review by his Local Board. Judgmental claims will be brought before the Local Boards for initial consideration. If his claim is denied, the registrant may request a higher level review from the District Appeal Board.

The following is a list of the Judgmental Classifications:

- 1-A-O Conscientious objector available for noncombatant military service only
- 1-O Conscientious objector to all military service
- 2-AM Essentiality of Occupation (health care only)
- 2-D Deferred because of study preparing for the ministry
- 3-A Deferred because of hardship to dependents
- 4-D Minister of religion

You will note that the only difference between the health care registrant classification identifier and that of the general registrant is the M signifying “medical”, i.e., 3-AM.

There is no current requirement for the Selective Service System to provide manpower to the Department of Defense. If and when Selective Service is called upon to provide manpower, the integrity and credibility of the entire conscription process will depend on a fair and effective classification process maintained by highly able, trusted and objective leaders in local communities.

Accordingly, each Board Member will receive formal training in the interpretation of Selective Service regulations for processing claims submitted by registrants. One of the criteria for appointment is that Board Members are willing and able to participate in the training that Selective Service provides. Upon activation the skills acquired during the training sessions will be utilized.



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