

9 Re-Considering the Military Draft – Saving Our Youth

Issue/Problem

This National proposal will and should generate much public debate — which is after all my intent with CS2.

I was initially considering this piece in early September 2006 about time when the Administration, Congress, and the military brass agreed they had no plans to re-start the Draft. Whether that was a practical military viewpoint or not is a matter of opinion, but it was correct pre-election politics for Congress! Since the 2006 election few members of Congress have mentioned it.

I fully understand and appreciate that some Americans will be upset about this proposal, but please give this overview a look. Again, *time makes more converts than reason*.

The Selective Military Service (SMS) System or the Draft as we used to call it was closed down in 1973 after the end of the Vietnam War. In general the Draft system required that **all** young man by the age of 19 to register **and** enter the Army for a two (2) period **or** to voluntarily enlist in another branch of the military. There were of course various ways to defer service such as a being in college or to avoid it all together via some real or fabricated medical condition — I will not go into that history here.

[Background on the American Selective Service System – from Wikipedia.com!](#)

The **Selective Service Act** or **Selective Draft Act** was passed by the Congress of the United States on May 18, 1917 creating the Selective Service System. The Act gave the President the power to draft soldiers.

World War I

In his war message on April 2, 1917 President Woodrow Wilson pledged all the nation's "material resources" to the Allied war effort. But what the Allies most urgently needed were fresh troops. Few Americans, however, rushed to volunteer for military service. By the end of WWI, some 24 million men had registered, and some 2.8 million had been drafted, meaning that more than half of the almost 4.8 million Americans who served in WWI were drafted.

The **Selective Training and Service Act of 1940** was passed by the Congress of the United States on September 6, 1940 becoming the first peacetime *conscription* in United States history. This Selective Service Act required men between the ages 21 and 30 register with local draft boards. The age range was later changed to 18-45.

World War II

In May 1940 Congress appropriated \$2.5 billion for Franklin D. Roosevelt's program of rebuilding military infrastructure, but Roosevelt did not feel the country was ready for a peacetime draft. However, on 20 June the Burke-Wadsworth Bill was brought before Congress. That legislation was drafted by Grenville Clark of the *Military Training Camps Association*, a World War I veterans group.

When signed into law by Franklin Roosevelt in 1940, the Burke-Wadsworth Act was the first peace-time draft in United States history. Under the Burke-Wadsworth Act, all American males between twenty-one and thirty-five years of age registered for the draft. The government initially selected men through a lottery system. If drafted, a man served for twelve months. According to the Burke-Wadsworth Act's provisions, drafted soldiers had to remain in the Western Hemisphere or in United States possessions or territories located in other parts of the world. The act provided that not more than 900,000 men were to be in training at any one time, and it limited service to 12 months.

The draft began in October 1940. By the early summer of 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt asked the U.S. Congress to extend the term of duty for the draftees beyond twelve months. The United States House of Representatives approved the extension by a single vote. The Senate approved it by a wider margin, and Roosevelt signed the bill into law.

Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on 7 December 1941, thousands of American men and women swelled the United States' military's ranks by volunteering for service.

After the United States entered World War II, a new Selective Service Act made men between 18 and 45 liable for military service and required all men between 18 and 65 to register. The terminal point of service was then extended to six months after the war was over. From 1940 until 1947—when the wartime selective service act expired after extensions by Congress—over 10,000,000 men were inducted.

After World War II

A revised Selective Service Act was passed in 1948 that required all men between 18 and 26 to register and that made men from 19 to 26 liable for induction for 21 months' service, which would be followed by 5 years of reserve duty.

My thanks to the Internet service at **Wikipedia.com**, the “free

encyclopedia”, for the informative background on the Selective Service System.

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To continue

“The Draft” as we knew it ended in 1973, the Selective Service remains as a means to register American males upon reaching the age of 18 as a contingency should the need arise. They still send Uncle Sam’s “birthday greeting card” to teenage men.

The SMS registration requirement was suspended in April 1975, but reinstated in 1980. Therefore, it was available and could have been used in recent years to support the Afghanistan and Iraq war efforts — instead of the politically gutless “backdoor Draft” of our National Guard for foreign deployment that the Bush II Administration decided to utilize.

Of course if Bush II and Cheney would have tried to start using the Draft, the public may have stopped *Bush’s Optional Iraq War* before it started and would have screamed for it to be ended once the justification for it were shown to be, shall we say somewhat “fabricated.” And they knew it.

As stated, you did not need to register with the Selective Service, you automatically received that greeting card from your local Draft Board on your 19th birthday — I got mine in July of 1967! And you were expected to report for a pre-induction physical and aptitude test. Again, if you went into the Draft it was a standard two-year commitment to the Army with options to stay permanently if you so decided.

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How the New SMS Will Help Us Now

The SMS System as it previously existed may not be fully restored however, that is where the national discussion needs to begin. I believe the debate over whether or not it should be restarted should rapidly evolve into exactly what practical form it *will* take and public acknowledgement of the measurable human benefits it would yield for the younger generation and our society as a whole.

Some of the benefits to the individual will be the vocational training, military discipline, and structure for young men (and women) today that proved to be so beneficial for young Americans for decades in the past. It absolutely proved to be a solid and positive starting point in life for many that would not have had it

otherwise. Also, those that enter the SMS without a High School diploma will leave with one.

I believe the nation must deliberately move to reinstitute some form of the non-voluntary SMS Draft system and have it ramping up in 2009 at the latest. Even though the Bush II, Iraq War surely muddies the discussion – both concerned parents and seasoned social workers that I have bounced this idea off have been very supportive of bringing the SMS back to help teenagers and younger twenty-something's get a better track on life.

I came to this sobering conclusion after straining my brain for a long time trying to determine what could practically be done with today's High School drop-outs (25-plus percent), as well as other youth both male and female that have been sitting ducks for the drug business, crime, gangs, and now religious zealots.

A better track had to be developed for their good and the nation's. I believe it is far better to build more soldiers than to build and fill more prisons. It all led me eventually to consider this personally surprising, yet nationally viable solution.

The People's Sense

To be crystal clear, the purpose in recommending that we bring back the military Draft induction process is to address various Domestic issues. It is not offered with the intent of building an Army for foreign assignment.

The new SMS is absolutely not for us to build-up troop count in Iraq and a watchful public will not let that happen. Rather we will get the h___ out of Bush II's optional war, ASAP! That issue will be more bluntly addressed later.

The New Draft – A Viable Means to Desirable Ends

Here are a few thoughts on the why the new Selective Military Service (SMS) will be of great use to the nation:

- In the first place the military is a very viable option for a lot of young Americans. Further, we will make the American military one that is staffed only with citizens. Although the service of non-citizen volunteers in our military has been outstanding, it is also seen as a backdoor way to citizenship. We will be moving to tighten the current paths of US citizenship and this is one admittedly honorable option that will be withdrawn.
- It would include men and women – equal opportunity ladies!

- Too many of our teens and twenty-something's today have few employment options where they are living and/or are just not that motivated to do something on their own. The truth is the truth.

A structured life and vocational guidance are what the Draft offered millions of young men for decades and what the volunteer-based military services still offer today. They come out of the standard 2-year tour more mature, more confident, and most were in the best physical condition of their life. They were better prepared for the world often had an improved work ethic, and have learned some basic occupational skill(s). And they had the GI-Bill to help them continue their education.

- With an increasing high school dropout rate now over 25% and with well-over 50% of those in prison not possessing a high school diploma – military service should once again be the next place for young people to go after High School or after having dropped out of it. And it would not be optional.

That real possibility would undoubtedly keep some of them in high school to graduate. Those that went into the Service would complete their high school education while in there and have the opportunity to get their life going in a more positive direction.

- Again, I have reviewed the idea of bringing back the Draft with social workers and they immediately say, “Yes!”

Over-lapping Problems and Solutions

Are you sitting down? *The* over-lapping problem area that really made my brain hurt for a while was — how to go about dismantling the various and violent gangs now operating all over our country! The SMS is the framework to provide us with that answer. The bad will go in and the good will come out!

***“Society’s most complex problems are made and solved
at the unit level — one person at a time”***

This is complicated stuff isn't it? But we can fix anything that We the People put our hearts and minds together to fix. Looking back it was probably a national mistake to ever stop the SMS service. With An American Agenda, We are now all about correcting passed errors wherever we can and this is an unexpected issue that needs to be confronted and fixed.

It is just more common sense.

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The Changing National System

With the proposed ramping down of the failed 35-plus year War on Hard Drugs beginning in 2008 and with major reductions in free-will crime we must determine what to do with those people – our fellow citizens, as well. Idle criminals can really get into trouble!

For starters we will begin rapid *collection and deportation* of any and all IOs known to be involved in gang and other criminal activities – and we will firmly resolve what to do with any family that they have here.

Because we cannot just go and kill them and their families like Chinese government literally did years ago to stamp-out its drug industry — and users, as well!

And should any of those IOs with criminal history decide of their own free-will to once again violate our national borders (as so many now do over and over again) and are apprehended – they will be toast — not imprisoned or evicted one more time. They will have be warned and know the hard penalty for returning well in advance.

We will have absolute control over our borders and who is allowed to be inside them. We must decide as a nation to quit paying for crime to continue to exist in our neighborhoods! And, especially crimes committed by IOs.

After all that, we will still have some tens of thousands of our citizens with criminal records to “re-tool” for life in civil society. And we can do it.

It is Just Like Baking a Cake

The old saying is,

“If you want bake a cake, you have got to break a few eggs”

Therefore, it follows that,

“If we want to have Peace in our streets,
we will be required to deport and break a few criminals.”

Granted this is a lot to take in, but please give it some thought.

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Coordinated Domestic Victory

The complimentary functioning of the re-instituted Draft system, American Population Management, and the Re-Employment system will work together to facilitate and accomplish the gargantuan civil rehabilitation of ‘former’ criminals and gang members. Given a choice of prison, 3-strikes you are dead, or the military what do you think their choice would probably be?

Our *common sense* and nationally responsible approach is to deliberately divert at-risk youth and young criminals to a safer and more promising life path, and it will not be optional.

The military would re-write its rules on not accepting people with a criminal record. Let’s get real for a change. **Especially** with young first offenders that are at the front edge of a bad life. And whether they are in high school or even in a lower grade, they may be considered for the overall SMS program. There could possibly be a pre-SMS program if they are too young – a program 6 to 12 months in duration and then return to regular school.

This can all be done and it will save thousands of our youth and the heartbreak of their parents, as well.

There are other positive benefits to the National System to be drawn from the re-birth of the SMS program, but this is enough on that for now. This was fairly brief, but it presents the viable concepts that will be easy enough to develop and implement no later than 2009!

Please give this overall proposal some serious thought, because it will be a far better than spending more billion\$ of our taxes building and maintaining any more jails and prisons — to say nothing of human loss.

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Let’s Hear It

And this is one of the few instances in CS2 where I will directly challenge people and groups that typically reject such a solution oriented proposal. For, IF they can come up with a better approach that will work at least this well on paper, and I mean get the same real results – then start writing because We the People cannot wait to read it! Or do not complain.

Peace, love, dove!

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