

What if I decide not to register?

There are both federal and state penalties for not registering with the SSS:

Federal

- If prosecuted and convicted, you could face up to 5 years in prison and/or a \$250,000 fine
- You become ineligible for federal financial aid for college (although some organizations and churches offer loans or grants for non-registrants—for more information, see www.nisbco.org)
- You are barred from employment with the federal government, including the Postal Service and the National Park Service

State of Wisconsin

- You become ineligible for state financial aid for college (although some colleges have small grants available for non-registrants—check with your financial aid office)
- When you apply for a driver's license, and you are male and within the age limits (18-25) for registration, the Department of Transportation is authorized and required to forward your information to the SSS. Your permission for the DOT to do this is "implied" by submitting your application. (2001, Act 93)

Donate

To our youth & militarization work:
www.paypal.com Nighttoak@charter.net
To Madison Area Peace Coalition:
PO Box 8344, Madison, WI 53708-8344

National Contacts

Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors
www.objector.org
(800) NO-JROTC (665-7682)

Center on Conscience and War
www.nisbco.org
(202) 483-2220 or (800) 379-2679

Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft
www.comdsd.org
(619) 265-1369

AFSC Youth and Militarism Program
www.afsc.org/youthmil.htm
(215) 241-7176

Local Contacts

Madison Area Peace Coalition

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Veterans for Peace—Clarence Kailin Chapter

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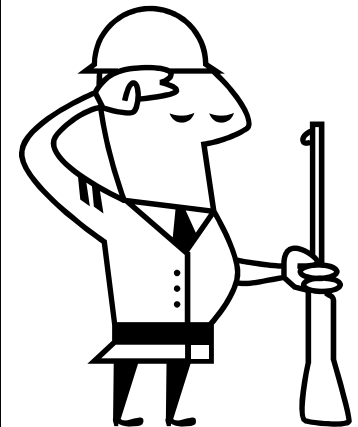
Madison Friends Meeting

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Draft Questions and Answers



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written by Michelle Nightoak*

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Is there a draft coming?

Will there be a draft?

The short answer is no – not right now. Initiating a draft is a politically risky proposition, especially preceding an election year. The general public is opposed to it, as is the military. However, with the expanding war on terrorism, the low morale of current troops, and the high numbers of reservists who are stating that they will NOT re-enlist once they are allowed to leave the service, a draft might be a possibility at some point in the near future.

How does the draft work?

After legislation is signed which begins a draft, a lottery system determines who is called. Those whose 20th birthday falls during that year are called first, and then, if needed, ages 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25 until the requested number of bodies for troops is reached. A physical, mental, and moral evaluation is done. After the registrant is notified of the results, he has 10 days to file claims for exemptions from service. For general information, see the Selective Service System's (SSS) website: www.sss.gov

What about Senate Bill S 89 and House Bill HR 163?

These bills, which have been quoted as “proof” of an imminent draft in many online articles, were introduced in early 2003, and have not moved beyond the Committee on Armed Services. The bills also propose compulsory service of 2 years in the military (not a draft) for both young men

AND young women, which make them politically unviable for the general public, the administration, and the Armed Services.

Why is the Selective Service System filling draft board positions?

The draft boards were reinstated by Jimmy Carter in 1980, and the positions filled during the early 1980's. Since members of draft boards are only allowed to serve for 20 years, many of the original participants have now reached the end of their service, leaving many more open positions than usual.

Do the Pentagon or the military want a draft?

It's a complicated issue, but the simplest answer is “no.” An all-volunteer force is easier to manage than one comprised of non-voluntary inductees and the military loses the ability to thoroughly screen new soldiers for compatibility with military service.

Will women be included in a draft?

No. It would require a bill being passed and signed into law that changes the current regulations governing the SSS. (This could change - all recently proposed legislation includes women.)

What if I'm a conscientious objector?

Start documenting your beliefs now! There are many resources out there for you – some are listed at the end of this brochure. You can also attend one of our Draft & Conscientious Objection Information Nights or see our brochure “Conscientious Objection.”

Will Canada still accept draft dodgers?

Canadian immigration laws have changed since the Vietnam era—to qualify for “landed immigrant status” you must show how you will support yourself without putting a Canadian out of work and without being a burden on the government. This process takes months, which means you would need to apply well before your number gets called.

J.E. McNeil of the Center on Conscience and War says, after extensive conversations of CCW with representatives in other countries, that “there is no host country that will take AWOL/UA's (Away Without Leave/Unauthorized Absence) from the US as refugees at this time.”

Also, applying for refugee status would prove to the military beyond a reasonable doubt that you intended to desert, which is a prosecutable felony.

What should I watch for that might signal an impending draft?

According to Rick Jahnkow, the Program Coordinator at Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft, potential signs that the SSS is gearing up for a draft include:

- A campaign to verify addresses of men who have already registered
- A movement toward prosecution to enforce the registration requirement
- A request for a large budget increase by the SSS
- A change in the policy of accepting late registrations (ages 19-25)