

SOS America Essential Elements

(Future Mobilization Needs of Nation)

Commission Members and Staff: I am Dean Hess (Colonel, USAF-ret), Senior Advisor to SOS America (Service over Self). www.sosamerica.org.

As a retired Air Force officer and business consultant, concerned about the need for continuing renewal of our country, I commend the SOS America initiative as a part, hopefully, a big part, of the solution to modernize the Selective Service System. Pre-mobilization registration would meet our need to track completion of a new National Service requirement. Using the Selective Service system is cost effective since it would be unnecessary to develop a new system to support the SOS America military requirement.

General John Borling, our Chairman, has testified before you here in Washington but I take this opportunity to emphasize that the military is the most respected institution in the nation. However, since only a small percentage of our young men and women qualify physically and mentally for the All Volunteer Force (AVF), we support the need to expand the opportunities for military service.

SOS America advocates an affordable, one year, small unit, military experience. Imagine, mixing geography, backgrounds and ages 18-25 in a small unit of young people whose physical and mental requirements would be based on the ability to take care of themselves versus the strenuous requirements for the AVF. Absent exemption and given demand, they would train and serve in platoons of 30, companies of 100, and respond to the mission needs of the services, guard and reserve, federal and state agencies.

Shared values and experiences; the affirming reality that 'they served'—this is their earned benefit and the benefits to our nation. It's all about nation building in America. I commend to you all-- www.sosamerica.org. Service over Self. Thank you.