

A Call to Arms

It is with great pride that we present to you today a subject of great importance. One our newly elected President holds close to his heart. As you well know, he made the basis of his presidential campaign mandatory military service, a requirement of one year of active duty for every male citizen before the age of twenty - two. It is our hope that today we can address your concerns about this new policy and put your minds at ease. Together, with your approval and support, we can use this policy to strengthen our society as a whole, develop young minds and bodies, and strive for national pride and unity.

First, we would like to attend to your concerns, one of the most prevalent being the effect this policy will have on our young men. In order to accurately address this, we went back to the studies of MIT's professor of economics, Joshua Angrist. Professor Angrist had done a study on the effect of the 1948 to 1972 mandatory draft. One of the trends he saw, during that time, was that soldiers enlisted into the military did lose some civilian labor market experience. But keep in mind that soldiers were being conscripted during a time of war, so the time in which they served was as long as they were needed. With this new policy the men who serve will only be required one year and after that, will be free to leave active duty, if they so choose.

You might still be wondering, "What about the mental stress of military service and training?" We have seen in recent studies, the negative psychological effects of service can be anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and even substance use, because of the experiences our soldiers go through, in their training and on the field. But in an effort to combat the development of disorders, free, in-person counseling is provided for all military personnel and their immediate family members. Also, understand that being drafted into the military does not mean our young men will automatically be placed on the front lines. When military training is complete, they are placed in positions best suited to their skill sets.

As we move forward, we'd like to address the previous concerns on a more positive note. For this, we interviewed a former military veteran, Jerry Prater, who served in the initial 1948 to 1972 mandatory draft. Mr. Prater stated that he, "never for an instant considered not being drafted." He says that he, "came back a better person." In recent observations of military training and service, we saw self - responsibility, critical thinking, discipline, and dependability, among other things, being taught and cultivated in the enlisted. These soldiers are pushed to their physical, mental, and emotional limits, all in an effort to show them the unlimited potential each of them has. Personal growth and leadership skills, such as increased maturity, self-improvement, and resiliency in trying situations, were seen being installed in those in training and active duty. Not to mention the camaraderie and strong friendships that are fostered during this time of service.

There is also the physical aspect to consider. Many recent health studies say that two out of five civilians who enlist are physically equipped for military training. It was also shown that many

veterans who remained physically fit throughout their time of serving maintained good physical health later on in life. Those who enlist participate in a high volume of physical activity, in both training and sports, cultivating lifelong, healthy habits. In other studies, it has also been shown that the amount of physical activity decreases the risk of certain mental disorders and even decreases the risk of some chronic conditions, such as obesity and type 2 diabetes.

It is time for us, as citizens of the United States of America, to understand our responsibility in instilling each generation with certain moral values. It is time for us to wear our citizenry as a title and symbol of honor and to cultivate that in our children. Together, with this policy, we can do just that.