A SYSTEM OF RANDOM SELECTION

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER
National Headquarters
Selective Service System

September 1967

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INTRODUCTION

After a study of several proposals, a system of Random Choice was determined upon as the most practical solution to the problem. This system was then made a subject of staff study. It was revealed that the system was workable in theory. Following this the Director ordered that an exercise be developed to test the plan with the registrants of a typical large city local board. After some deliberation, District of Columbia Local Board No. 4, embracing a section of North West Washington, was chosen. As of the time of the experiment this board had a total of 2907 registrants between 18 and 26 years of age. With the cooperation of the Director of Selective Service for the District of Columbia and with the assistance of the members of Detachment 21-5, United States Army Element, Selective Service System Organization, Washington, D. C., a 3 x 5" card was prepared for each of these registrants, each card bearing the minimum information believed necessary. This information was secured from "The Classification Record", SSS Form No. 102. (The information contained on these cards is discussed in detail in the "Exercise" part of this paper.) These cards, which, in effect, simulated registrant cover sheets (individual files), were prepared so that the exercise could be performed at National Headquarters. Any attempt to have conducted the exercise in the local board would have seriously interfered with the activity of that board.

This paper has been prepared in two parts. PART ONE, RANDOM SELECTION, contains the procedure to be used. PART TWO, EXERCISE, describes the exercise and records the observations made.

PART ONE

R A N D O M S E L E C T I O N

RANDOM SELECTION

The purpose of Random Selection is to establish a priority, annually, for registrants who are at any time during the period for which the Random Selection sequence is used, in classifications I-A, I-A-O or I-O.

Procedure

1. Establish by lot a sequence of the days of the year, including February 29th.

2. Establish by lot an alphabetic sequence Number 1, to arrange the registrants whose birthday occurs on the same day of the year, by the first letter of their surnames.

3. Establish by lot an alphabetic sequence Number 2, in a similar manner for use with the first names of those registrants born on the same day who have the same letter at the beginning of their surnames.

4. Establish in each local board, either by arrangement of Cover Sheets or by an index card system, or by other means, in the sequence determined by lot all registrants classified I-A, I-A-O or I-O.

5. Place in this sequence each individual placed in I-A, I-A-O or I-O during the year.

6. Withdraw from this file each individual who for any reason is removed from I-A, I-A-O, or I-O.

7. Registrants entering I-A, I-A-O or I-O during the year, if in a position that has already been passed by the induction process, shall be ordered for induction immediately after the delinquents and the volunteers.

8. Registrants entering I-A, I-A-O or I-O during the year will be inducted at such time as calls reach their position.

9. Registrants postponed, awaiting results of physical examination or on appeal, when their classification had been determined to be I-A, I-A-O or I-O and if their position had been reached by the induction process will be inducted ahead of all other registrants, except delinquents and volunteers, even though it is after the end of the calendar year in which they would have been inducted had it not been for the delays.

10. Registrants who become 26 years old after the first sequence is established will be placed in the sequence of the year during which they enter I-A, I-A-O or I-O.

11. All registrants I-A, I-A-O or I-O, not inducted by provision 7, 8, or 9, will, at the end of the calendar year, be placed in sequence immediately after the registrants in the basic sequence of the following year.

12. Calls will be met by taking registrants in sequence as they occur in the procedures heretofore outlined.

13. The first random sequence will establish the sequence of call for the calendar year of 1968. All registrants I-A, I-A-O or I-O who were born between January 1, 1942 and December 31,

1948, inclusive, will be placed in the random sequence.

14. The second random sequence will establish the sequence of call for the calendar year of 1969. All registrants classified I-A, I-A-O or I-O who were born in 1949 and registrants previously deferred who become available in 1969, will be placed in the sequence determined.

15. The third random sequence will establish the sequence of call for the calendar year of 1970. All registrants classified I-A, I-A-O or I-O who were born in 1950 and registrants previously deferred who become available in 1970, will be placed in the sequence determined.

16. et sequitur.

PART TWO

E X E R C I S E

EXERCISE

The objectives of the Random Selection exercise were to:

(1) determine the feasibility of its operation on a local board level;

(2) identify any problem areas that might be encountered, and

(3) seek solutions for these and develop suggestions for procedures.

The purpose of a random selection is to establish an annual sequence for registrants who are, at any time during that period for which the random choice is used, in a Selective Service classification available for service, i.e., classes I-A, I-A-O and I-O. In order to insure a reasonable range of exercise operations, three basic annual sequence patterns were developed. The first, called "1968 sequence," consisted of registrants born between Jan. 1, 1942 and Dec. 31, 1946. The second, called "1969 sequence" included registrants born in 1947 to simulate the new 19 years olds. A third called "1970 sequence" included registrants born in 1948 to simulate the new 19 year olds in 1970. In addition, two random sequences of the alphabet were developed for each of the three basic annual sequences. These were later to be used to determine the sequence of registrants born on the same date of the year. All of

these sequences were formulated through the process of random selection, by selection from a fish bowl of slips of paper on which dates of the year or letters of the alphabet had been recorded. The selections of dates and letters were recorded in numerical sequence, as follows:

Dates	Letters
No. 1 - - - Nov. 25	No. 1 - - - Y
No. 2 - - - Mar. 15	No. 2 - - - T
↓	↓
No. 366 - - - Apr. 13	No. 26 - - - W

From these data, conversion tables were constructed. By reference to these tables the sequence for any given date in the year or any letter in the alphabet could be quickly ascertained. Exhibit "A" is an example of the conversion table for the 1968 sequence, while Exhibit "B" reflects the two random selections of the alphabet and its conversion table for the 1969 sequence.

To obtain as realistic an exercise of local board operations as possible, arrangements were made to secure actual data on each classified registrant, between the ages of 18 and 26, in a local board in the District of Columbia. Using the board's Classification Record, a 3 x 5" card was made for each classified registrant. This card reflected the registrant's date of birth, his classification, and his initials, the first being the initial of his surname. These were separated for each of the three periods into the following three groups:

1. I-A's, I-A-O's and I-O's (availables)

2. II-S's (deferred as students), with date of last deferment, and year of school.

3. All other classifications

These 3 x 5" cards in effect represented the Cover Sheet, SSS Form No. 101, (basic Selective Service record) for each registrant. These were arranged in several file boxes. The actual count for the three groups were:

311 in classifications I-A, I-A-O, and I-O
552 in classification II-S
2044 in all other classifications
2907 registrants

Though the Director had authorized the use of either index cards or cover sheets in sequence, a decision was made to first try a card index system. Accordingly, another 3 x 5" card, called a "Fair Card," was made for each registrant who was in the I-A group or was later classified into this available group. On this Fair Card, in the upper right corner, there was shown a series of digits such as:

096 18 11

The first three digits represented the sequence of the registrant's date of birth, as previously determined by the random choice. In the example above, the registrant born on December 16 and subject to the 1968 Random Sequence would be in the 96th sequence. The next

four digits were used, when required, to establish a priority between registrants within one local board who might have been born on the same date. The second two digits represented the predetermined sequence for the first letter of the registrant's surname and the last two digits represented the predetermined sequence for the first letter of the registrant's given name. A registrant who has been assigned the following series of digits:

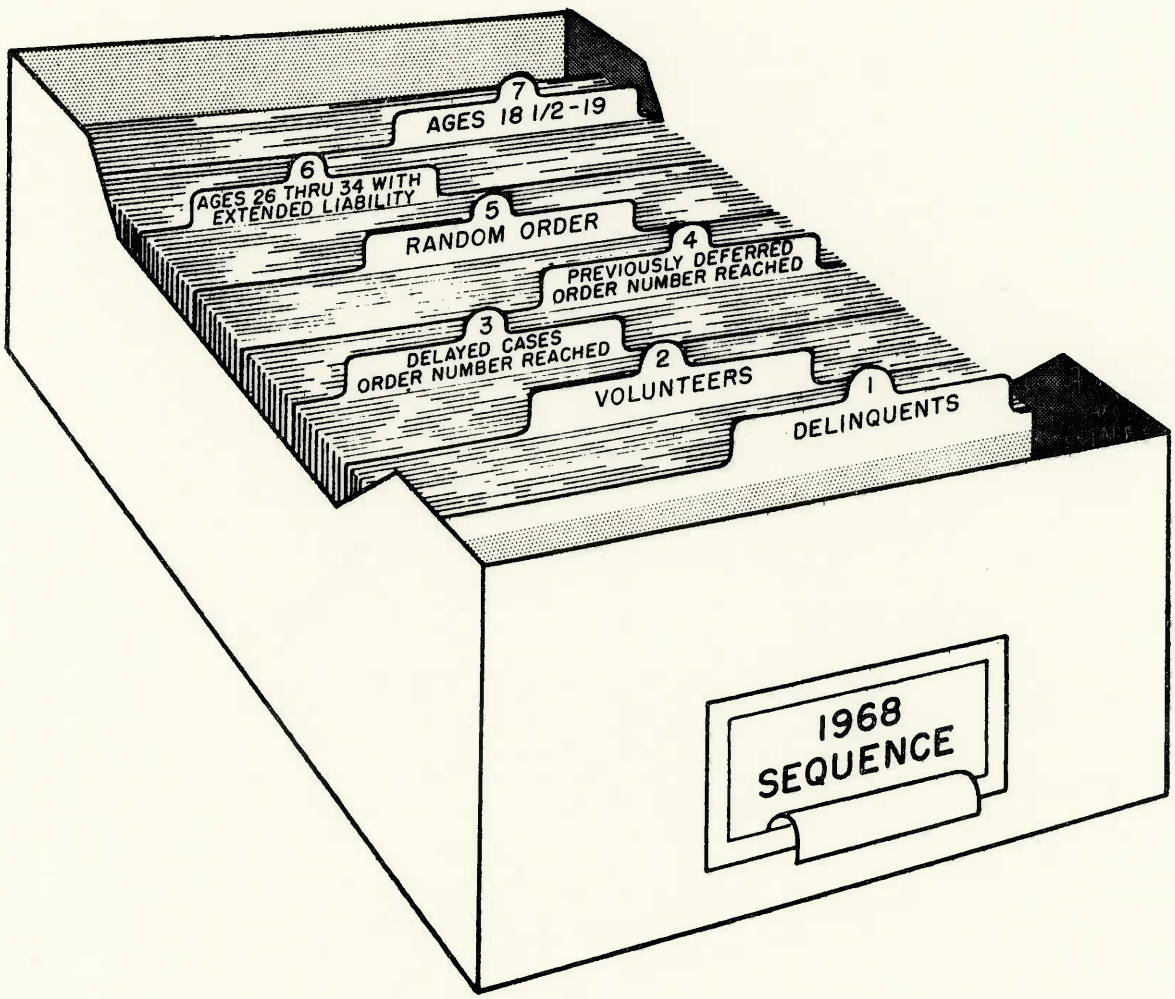
096 18 03

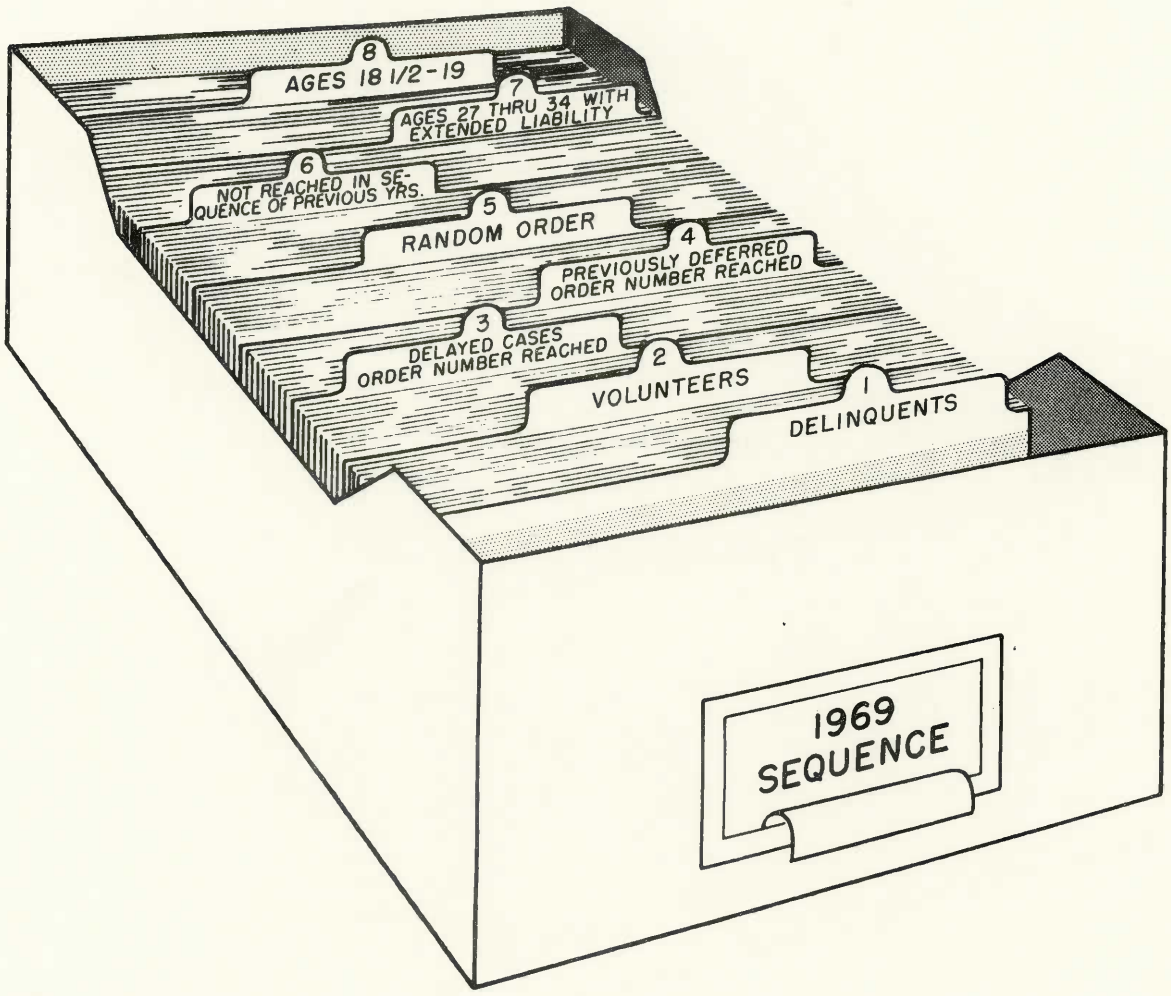
for instance, would have a higher priority for call than would one with the following:

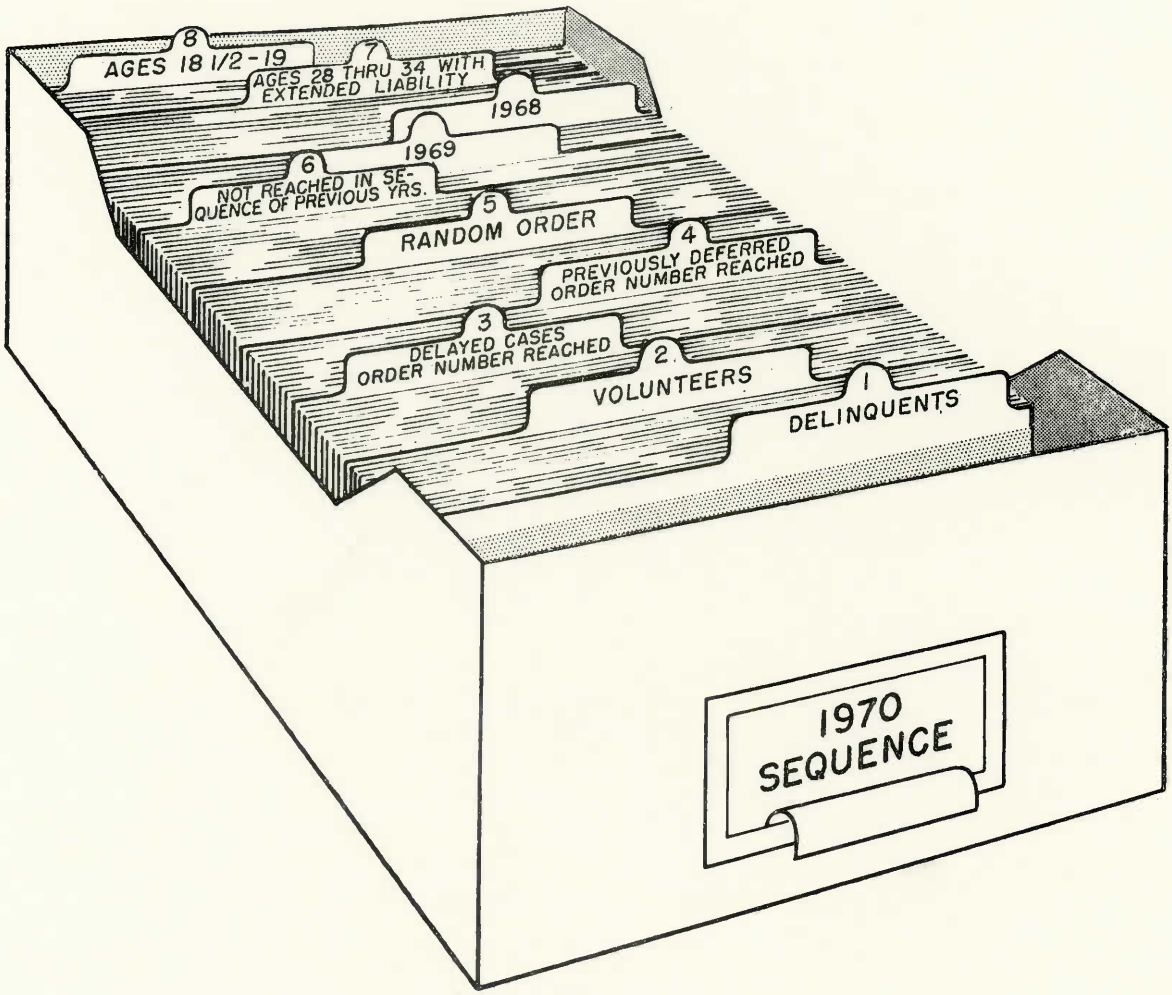
096 18 21

Three file boxes to hold the 3 x 5" Fair Cards, one box for each of the three periods, were developed. Separator cards of different colors were placed into the boxes to separate not only the dates of the year placed in predetermined sequence but also set off divisions for delinquents, volunteers, and those registrants whose induction had been delayed (such as for appeal cases). The Fair Cards were inserted into the proper sections in sequence whenever the registrant was classified into a classification of I-A, I-O, or I-A-O. On the next three pages are shown drawings of how the Fair Cards and separator cards might appear in the file boxes containing the 1968, 1969 and 1970 sequences. It may be noted that there are differences in the number of separator cards for the three periods

as well as differences in registrants included in Priorities 6, 7, and 8. In the 1970 sequence priority 6 consists of the Fair Cards of registrants whose sequences were not reached in 1969 and in 1968, illustrating decreasing vulnerability. The 1968 group would be vulnerable only after the 1969 group had been called. The text continues on page 16.


7
AGES 18 1/2-19
6
AGES 26 THRU 34 WITH EXTENDED LIABILITY
5
RANDOM ORDER
4
PREVIOUSLY DEFERRED ORDER NUMBER REACHED
3
DELAYED CASES ORDER NUMBER REACHED
2
VOLUNTEERS
1
DELINQUENTS
1968 SEQUENCE


8
AGES 18 1/2-19
7
AGES 27 THRU 34 WITH EXTENDED LIABILITY
6
NOT REACHED IN SEQUENCE OF PREVIOUS YRS.
5
RANDOM ORDER
4
PREVIOUSLY DEFERRED ORDER NUMBER REACHED
3
DELAYED CASES ORDER NUMBER REACHED
2
VOLUNTEERS
1
DELINQUENTS
1969 SEQUENCE


8
AGES 18 1/2 - 19
7
AGES 28 THRU 34 WITH EXTENDED LIABILITY
1968
1969
6
NOT REACHED IN SEQUENCE OF PREVIOUS YRS.
5
RANDOM ORDER
4
PREVIOUSLY DEFERRED ORDER NUMBER REACHED
3
DELAYED CASES ORDER NUMBER REACHED
2
VOLUNTEERS
1
DELINQUENTS
1970 SEQUENCE

A decision was made that in this exercise the interplay and interaction would be limited to changes affecting the registrants in the I-A and II-S classifications. A required first action was to make the classifications current and accurate as they would normally be expected to be on January 1, 1968. This involved many reclassifications from II-S to I-A or to I-S (c). There were also related actions, such as appeals and postponement of inductions. As registrants were reclassified into I-A, the Fair Cards were prepared and the series of digits indicating the sequence were entered on them. This was accomplished by reference to the conversion table on the 1968 sequence. After the digits were entered on the Fair Card the card was inserted into its proper sequence in the 1968 Sequence File Box. On the simulated starting date of January 1, 1968, the preparation for use of the Random Selection system on the local board level had been completed. Many Fair Cards were distributed across the divisions and sequence sections of the 1968 Sequence File Box.

To begin the actual exercise an assumption was made that the local board had, prior to January 1, 1968, received a call for 22 I-A, registrants to be delivered during the month of January. By reference to the file box it was possible to select the following:

1 - delinquent

2 - volunteers

21 - registrants who were in sequence ranging from 005 to 180

24 - total (including 2 for a 10% overcall)

In addition to the simulated inductions indicated above, the local board experienced other actions which continually affected the 1968 Sequence File Box. In the play of the exercise many registrants classified II-S left school and consequently were reclassified into I-A. If their basic sequence had already been reached when they were classified into I-A their Fair Cards were inserted in Priority 4 section. If, on the other hand, their sequence had not been reached their Fair Cards were placed under their proper sequence in Priority 5. Classification and related actions (appeals, appeal decisions, postponements, etc.) and monthly inductions continued to take place through out 1968. The preparation, insertion and removal of Fair Cards followed these actions.

As the end of Decemver 1968 approached in the exercise, preparations were made to change over to the 1969 sequence. Conversion tables had been made for the 1969 sequence of dates of the year and letters of the alphabet. The sequence file box for the year 1969 had been prepared and separator cards placed in it. In an attempt to insure a maximum application of the proper sequence, i.e., 1968 or 1969, to the registrants, a final board meeting in 1968 was simulated within the last few days in December 1968. Classification actions were completed and Fair Cards made up and filed in the 1968 Sequence File Box before the end of the year. At the end of the year a certain number of Fair Cards remained in the

1968 File Box. At this time there were no Fair Cards in the 1969 Box. To effect the conversion the following actions were taken:

1. The Fair Cards which had been inserted in Priorities 1, 2, 3, and 4 for delinquents, volunteers, those whose cases had been delayed or deferred but who were now available and whose sequence had been reached during 1968, were transferred to the 1969 Sequence File Box.
2. The Fair Cards which had been inserted in the Priority 5 sequence which were not reached in 1968 were removed and placed together and in the order of their 1968 sequence in the 1969 Sequence File Box in Priority 6. During the next year, 1969, they were to become vulnerable only after those registrants in Priority 5 of the 1969 sequence had been selected.
3. A check was made to determine whether any of the registrants whose cases had been routinely delayed were now available. It should be pointed out that this check is made continually throughout the year.
4. Fair Cards were prepared and inserted in the 1969 Sequence File Box according to the predetermined sequence for the I-A registrants who had been born in 1947.

After the 1969 operations were begun, the sequence of

digits placed on the Fair Cards were ascertained from the predetermined 1969 basic and alphabet sequence determinations. Actions resulting in the establishment, placement, and removal of Fair Cards continued during the months of 1969.

Those registrants who were classified I-A in 1968, but whose cases were delayed in an appeal or for other reasons, and who became available in 1969 were processed under the 1968 sequence; example, such a registrant, born May 20, 1945, was processed in the 169th sequence (1968 selection) not in the 13th sequence (1969 selection).

As a result of the exercise the following observations are made:

1. The operations that a random selection system would impose upon a local board are workable. It is within the capability of local board personnel to perform the administrative and clerical functions required by the system on that level.
2. Though in the exercise a card index system was used it became obvious that the use of cover sheets would be preferable. The use of cover sheets would eliminate considerable repetitive clerical work and would reduce the possibility of error. The cover sheet system envisions the cover sheets in sequence and in the priorities as discussed for the card index system.

Separate file drawers and/or file drawer space would be established for the cover sheets of registrants classified I-A, I-A-O, and I-O. The cover sheets would be placed in and removed from these separate file drawers on the basis of classification actions and armed forces acceptability determinations. A stamp on each cover sheet of the year involved, such as "1969" to indicate the application of the 1969 ramdon sequence, would facilitate the administrative processing.

3. To meet any Department of Defense calls for registrants classified I-Y a separate file system using the same predetermined sequences would be required to select the I-Y registrants to be ordered to Induction Stations for armed forces examinations.

4. An increased number of previously deferred student registrants would become available subsequent to June of each year.

5. The change-over from one random sequence to another at the end of the year can be made without undue difficulty. However, to insure the application of the proper sequence all classifications should be as current as possible. A board meeting within the last few days of the year would be desirable.

1968 RANDOM SEQUENCE (By month and day)

Day	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Day
1	272	42	237	304	112	32	98	238	240	231	281	220	1
2	325	52	357	192	214	167	305	114	194	211	55	259	2
3	348	205	308	65	121	36	161	287	288	81	221	302	3
4	84	244	127	162	80	292	99	109	62	234	298	38	4
5	250	247	351	349	142	70	179	195	46	335	184	210	5
6	343	177	57	91	105	73	93	53	186	28	136	140	6
7	126	188	217	268	338	6	58	283	63	75	117	26	7
8	255	241	25	54	7	12	34	49	48	299	245	300	8
9	262	318	35	145	115	11	364	290	181	166	246	168	9
10	355	225	222	277	87	79	97	365	266	138	135	9	10
11	20	56	19	236	233	223	171	239	51	16	129	77	11
12	165	111	248	229	256	4	187	337	319	328	341	175	12
13	103	310	132	366	330	276	213	180	59	228	218	227	13
14	143	197	190	120	44	158	309	344	85	144	232	270	14
15	107	67	2	284	108	362	333	322	312	353	152	66	15
16	261	264	198	41	174	326	18	267	212	314	8	96	16
17	199	164	235	37	40	88	172	130	295	131	336	61	17
18	301	82	275	315	297	90	191	74	149	189	176	274	18
19	327	358	27	329	118	128	307	196	280	347	33	352	19
20	204	30	147	294	169	271	216	134	15	146	113	125	20
21	332	215	163	3	306	206	311	156	64	21	101	265	21
22	22	29	193	133	334	202	321	252	43	208	110	363	22
23	183	83	345	342	320	148	303	226	359	68	269	273	23
24	260	119	185	72	317	155	356	157	86	182	39	14	24
25	178	45	253	137	23	354	159	313	203	263	1	104	25
26	316	60	160	92	173	282	243	242	279	24	224	360	26
27	100	31	361	230	278	89	71	254	258	5	76	50	27
28	249	10	13	116	106	201	47	289	141	124	94	346	28
29	153	293	123	340	296	154	170	139	69	251	207	257	29
30	324	xxx	200	78	122	151	323	219	150	331	209	286	30
31	102	xxx	350	xxx	285	xxx	339	95	xxx	291	xxx	17	31

Exhibit "A"

1969
ALPHABETICAL SEQUENCE

Random Sequence	Letter			Random Sequence	Letter		
1	F	A	13	1	S	A	17
2	N	B	7	2	C	B	19
3	E	C	26	3	H	C	2
4	J	D	18	4	N	D	21
5	W	E	3	5	Z	E	18
6	R	F	1	6	V	F	9
7	B	G	22	7	P	G	16
8	M	H	14	8	K	H	3
9	O	I	17	9	F	I	25
10	Y	J	4	10	U	J	20
11	S	K	23	11	Y	K	8
12	L	L	12	12	R	L	14
13	A	M	8	13	O	M	15
14	H	N	2	14	L	N	4
15	U	O	9	15	M	O	13
16	T	P	24	16	G	P	7
17	I	Q	21	17	A	Q	24
18	D	R	6	18	E	R	12
19	Z	S	11	19	B	S	1
20	V	T	16	20	J	T	22
21	Z	U	15	21	D	U	10
22	G	V	20	22	T	V	6
23	K	W	5	23	X	W	26
24	P	X	25	24	Q	X	23
25	X	Y	10	25	I	Y	11
26	C	Z	19	26	W	Z	5

Exhibit "B"