FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MARCH 27, 1969
Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT
ANNOUNCING A COMMISSION ON AN
ALL-VOLUNTEER ARMED FORCE

To achieve the goal of an all-volunteer force we will require the best efforts of our military establishment and the best advice we can obtain from eminent citizens and experts in many related fields of national endeavor. For this purpose, I have today appointed an Advisory Commission on an All-Volunteer Armed Force under the Chairmanship of the Honorable Thomas S. Gates, Jr., former Secretary of Defense.

I have directed the Commission to develop a comprehensive plan for eliminating conscription and moving toward an all-volunteer armed force. The Commission will study a broad range of possibilities for increasing the supply of volunteers for service, including increased pay, benefits, recruitment incentives and other practicable measures to make military careers more attractive to young men. It will consider possible changes in selection standards and in utilization policies which may assist in eliminating the need for inductions. It will study the estimated costs and savings resulting from an all-volunteer force, as well as the broader social and economic implications of this program.

The transition to an all-volunteer armed force must, of course, be handled cautiously and responsibly so that our national security is fully maintained. The Commission will determine what standby machinery for the draft will be required in the event of a national emergency and will give serious consideration to our requirements for an adequate reserve forces program.

I have instructed the Department of Defense and other agencies of the Executive Branch to support this study and provide needed information and assistance as a matter of high priority.

The Commission will submit its report to me in early November, 1969.

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MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT'S
COMMISSION ON AN ALL-VOLUNTEER
ARMED FORCE

Thomas Gates (Chairman)
Chairman of the Executive Committee of Morgan
Guaranty Trust Company, former Secretary of
Defense, New York City

Thomas Curtis
Lawyer, former Congressman, ranking Republican
on Joint Economic Committee, Trustee of
Dartmouth College, St. Louis Missouri

Frederick Dent
President, Mayfair Mills, Spartanburg, South Carolina

Milton Friedman
Paul Snowdon Russell Distinguished Service
Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago

Crawford Greenewalt
Chairman, Finance Committee, E.I. DuPont de
Nemours & Co., Wilmington, Delaware

Alan Greenspan
Chairman of the Board of Townsend & Greenspan &
Co., economic consultant, New York City

Alfred Gruenther
Former Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, Wash DC

Stephen Herbits
Associate with Campaign Systems, former
researcher for House Republican Wednesday Club
Washington, D.C.

Theodore Hesburgh
President of the University of Notre Dame, South Bend,
Indiana

Jerome Holland
President, Hampton Institute, Hampton, Virginia

John Kemper
Headmaster of Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass.

Jeanne L. Nobel
Professor of Education at New York University,
former member of Defense Advisory Committee on
Women in the Armed Services, Vice President
National Council of Negro Women

Lauris Norstad
Chairman of the Board of Owens-Corning Fiberglass
Corporation, former Supreme Allied Commander,
Europe, New York City

W. Allen Wallis
President of the University of Rochester

Roy Wilkins
Executive Director of NAACP, New York City