

MARCH 27, 1969

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSESTATEMENT 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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Office of the White House Press Secretary  
-----THE WHITE HOUSEMEMBERS 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