MOBILE INNOVATION PROGRAMS

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALL-VOLUNTEER FORCE
APRIL 13-14, 2023

JOIN TO DISCUSS THE THEME
THE ALL-VOLUNTEER FORCE TURNS FIFTY: PAST SUCCESSES, FUTURE CHALLENGES

On June 30, 1973, America’s All Volunteer Force was born but young men continue to be obligated to register for Selective Service and the government retains its legal right to conscript citizens into the military. 2023 marks the 50th anniversary of the birth of the AVF, a fitting milestone to engage in a deeper conversation about the past, present, and future of the AVF. After 50 years and a host of overseas confrontations, interventions, and occupations, the AVF has been tested and has endured.

However, the AVF is now being called upon to meet the challenges of renewed great power competition with China and Russia while facing an unprecedented recruiting crisis. Is the AVF still the best means of manning the U.S. military and protecting the United States? The history, health, and future of the All-Volunteer Force will be examined and discussed on April 13-14, 2023, at the Pritzker Military Museum & Library. We will welcome a stellar group of civilian experts, scholars, and active duty and retired service members to share their knowledge and insights on this critical issue.

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

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THURSDAY: WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS
Krewasky A. Salter, Ph.D., President of the Pritzker Military Museum and Library

THURSDAY: SESSION 1
Those Who Serve in Today’s All-Volunteer Force
This panel will discuss who joins, and who is recruited to serve in today’s military. Why they serve; what impact does it have on the force and society; and what short, long term implications has the decision to move to an AVF created within American society. This panel will touch on the social, cultural, and economic implications, past and present, associated with the draft and AVF.

Panel Chair:
Colonel (USA) Jaron Wharton, Ph.D., Military Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies
Panelists:
Kenneth O. Preston, 13th Sergeant Major of the Army
Adrian R. Lewis, Ph.D., David B. Pittaway Professor of Military History, University of Kansas
Major General (USA Ret.) Dennis Laich, Author of Skin in the Game: Poor Kids and Patriots

THURSDAY KEYNOTE:
Transforming Army Recruiting
In an everchanging recruiting environment, military recruiters must continuously adapt to ensure the value proposition of Service reaches and resonates with America’s youth. In one of the most difficult periods of recruiting since the establishment of the All-Volunteer Force, MG Johnny Davis addresses how he’s leveraging the Army’s greatest asset: it’s people. Through talent management, initiative development, and research on today’s youth, Davis strives to provide recruiters all the resources needed to unleash their Superpowers and CRUSH it!

Major General Johnny K. Davis, Commanding General of U.S. Army Recruiting Command and Fort Knox, Kentucky

FRIDAY: SESSION 2
National Security in an Increasingly Technology-Dominated World: Populating the Military Forces
This panel will discuss how modernization and technology have impacted the force structure and those who serve in an all-volunteer environment. It will address how we are, or should be, recruiting and sustaining the force. Panelists will touch on existing tools, and tools that might be implemented, to maintain a military force strong and viable enough to sustain America’s national security into the future.

Panel Chair:
Krewasky A. Salter, Ph.D., President of the Pritzker Military Museum and Library
Panelists:
Colonel (USA Ret.) Lawrence Wilkerson, Past Distinguished Visiting Professor of Government and Public Policy at the College of William and Mary
Lieutenant Colonel (USA) Keith Carter, Ph.D., Assistant Professor at the US Military Academy & Director of the Defense and Strategic Studies Program
Jackie Schneider, Ph.D. (USAF Res.), Hoover Fellow and affiliate of the Center for International Security and Cooperation, both at Stanford University

FRIDAY: SESSION 3
Partner Perspectives: How America’s Allies Man Their Militaries
America’s allies and security partners have a diverse array of military manpower systems, yet all grapple with keeping their militaries manned, retaining talent, and being able to properly mobilize in the event of crisis or war. With the participation of foreign officers and experts, we discuss how universal service, selective conscription, and other recruitment systems address the contemporary security environment, alongside the implications and applicability of these models for the United States.

Panel Chair:
Gil Barndollar, Ph.D., Senior Research Fellow at the Catholic University of America’s Center for the Study of Statesmanship
Panelists:
Hitoshi Kawano, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology at Department of Public Policy at National Defense Academy, Yokosuka, Japan
Colonel Juha Helle, (Finland) Defense, Military, Naval and Air Attaché to the United States of America and Canada
Max Z. Margulies, Ph.D., U.S. Military Academy, Director of Research at the Modern War Institute and the Defense and Strategic Studies Thesis Program Director