

# Selective Service System Gives Qualifying Test

(CPS) -- The Selective Service System has announced tests that might qualify students for a draft deferment will be given on May 14, May 21, and June 3.

High school seniors who will graduate in June and college students who desire to take the test must make an application not later than April 23 to the Science Research Associates of Chicago, the firm under contract with the government to prepare and administer the tests. It was awarded the contract over two bidders.

The Selective Service office stresses the test is optional and no student is required to take it. However, beginning in the fall, local draft boards will use a combination of school grades and scores on the test to determine who will be deferred. Indications are that a student with an exceptionally high standing in his college class would not need to take the test in order to be deferred. A student with a lower rank in his class might substantially improve his chances for a deferment with a good score on the test.

Although the criteria for deferments have not been announced as yet, it is expected to be similar to those used during the Korean war when a score of 70 (out of 150 questions) was considered defensible for an undergraduate student and an 80 was generally accepted for a graduate student.

The test is designed to test four areas -- reading comprehension, verbal relations, arithmetic reasoning, and data interpretation.

A spokesman for the Selective Service office called the test "similar to a general aptitude test" with about 50 per cent of it devoted to verbal and linguistic skills and about 50 per cent to quantitative reasoning.

He said the test had been constructed so as not to give any advantage to any type of college major. There were charges that the test used during the Korean war was weighed in favor of math and science students.

The formal announcement of the test will be made by the Selective Service office around April and test information will be posted on college and university campuses, public buildings and local draft boards.

Students considering the tests will be able to get bulletins and forms from their draft boards. The bulletin tells where and when to report for the test. About 1,200 sites throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Canal Zone will be used.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon announced that a sharp upturn in enlistments has enabled it to cut its March draft call by 10,500 to 22,400 men -- the lowest figure since the 16,500 called last August.

The Defense Department has originally asked the Selective Service System to induct 32,900 men in March but Army enlistments in January totaled more than 19,000 -- the highest monthly figure in more than a decade. Marine Corps enlistments also jumped to 7,000, an increase of 165 per cent over January of 1965.

With plans finalized for the test and colleges reconstructing recording systems to furnish draft boards with grades and class standings, some college officials have expressed serious misgivings over the tighter rules for student deferments.

A Brandeis University dean says the new policy determining student deferments is "totally absurd" and said seven professors may stop giving grades because of it.

Dean Kermit Morrises said for a student to lose his deferment because of a low class ranking was "unfair to schools with highly selective admissions policies

where everyone is a potentially good student."

Prof. John R. Seely, chairman of the sociology department, in a statement signed by six other sociologists, denounced the method as "an invasion or misuse of our role."

They said their opinion had nothing to do with the draft or the war but threatened to quit giving grades or to give all A's rather than help determine which students would be deferred.

Officials at Harvard and the University of Michigan have assured students they will not send grades to a student's draft board if he asks that they not be sent. They caution, however, that this might mean immediate reclassification as an "obstruction" to the draft system.

Dr. Buell G. Gallagher, president of City College of New York, said, "A 'C' student at institution 'X' may be a better bet for college and university work than an 'A' student from institution 'Z'. The overriding interest of the nation is better served by encouraging the best talent to continue in higher education as long as possible . . ."

Charles E. Liesenfelt of Minneapolis, an educator and a draft board member, said the system would be "about as fair as you can possibly get." Liesenfelt, assistant to the recorder at the University of Minnesota, is chairman of his county draft board.

George Watson, dean of students at Roosevelt University in Chicago, protested that the rules would make universities "a part of the Selective Service System."

Lt. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, head of Selective Service, continued offering assurances to students. Hershey said if monthly calls continue between 10,000 and 30,000 probably only an "infinitesimal" number of full-time college students would be drafted to meet the needs of the war.

"It would probably be only a thousand or two a month," he said, "and that's pretty small in comparison with a pool of 1.8 million students."

He added unless draft calls rise sharply, many students will not be drafted even if they fail the qualification tests and don't maintain required class standings. He warned, however, that "it's not a time of complacency among students." He said any change in the Vietnam situation could send draft calls skyrocketing and cause a major depletion of college campuses.