

## **Essay B**

The United States has used a draft in The Civil War, World War One, World War Two, the time frame of 1948 through 1972 and during Vietnam. In 1973 the draft ended and the United States implemented an all volunteer military. It has been an all volunteer military ever since then. Regardless if you support a draft or not, if the country needs troops and all other routes to increase the military have failed a draft should be used. The current force of troops needs a relief process. The government has to provide this for the troops. This may or may not be the answer for the current war in Iraq. How a draft would change the war in Iraq and the future of the military is a hard question to answer. The answer to this depends on the person and their own views.

Being a veteran and serving two tours of duty in Bosnia I have served only in an all volunteer military. It seems that a common thought about drafted members of the military is that they are anti-military. I believe that many of our servicemen that were drafted displayed honor, courage and dedication to duty. I also believe that some drafted members were probably the worst breed of fighter we ever had. My experience in an all volunteer military was much the same. I served with some of the most outstanding members you could imagine, at the same time I have served with some of the worst. Just because a person volunteers for the military does not guarantee they will be any better than someone who is forced into the military. This would probably be the case in the present war in Iraq. The current force, which is an all volunteer military, probably has some poor quality members in it just as it probably has some great members in it. A draft would do exactly the same. If a draft was introduced it would need some kind of

incentive for it to work. If you serve a two year drafted term with a combat tour then you receive a four year college degree paid for. Some type of program being set up along with a draft would help soften the blow. This idea might help the future of the military. After being forced to serve you get an education and then might decide to stay in the military. Increasing the number of educated service members would only help the military.

I decided to talk to two people, one is a Vietnam Veteran the other is a Ranger in the United States Army. The Vietnam Veteran agreed with me and thought all 18 year old men should have to serve. He also brought up the idea of some type of incentive program. The current Army Ranger had zero use for a drafted member. He stated that “if they are not patriotic enough to volunteer then stay home.” I thought their personal beliefs were interesting. I also thought they would be reversed. Since I have been out of the military for seven year now I wanted to hear what a current member thought, I also thought it important to hear what a person who served as a drafted member in Vietnam thought. Their two views were very interesting.

The topic of a draft is and always will be one of controversy. It will always come with hatred and protest. If it is needed for the well being of this great country then implement it. The right thing to do is to have some kind of incentive that really helps support it. A draft will produce poor quality members as well as good quality members. If we do start a draft we need to do it right. If we use the right incentives we can build a bigger, better, smarter military.