



Deuce Bigelow, Political Philosopher

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Americans have not endured a military draft since the 1970s. Our bodies and very lives aren't conscript. Just our fortunes.

Not perfect, true, but as political trades go it's better for equal freedom than slightly lower taxes *and* a return of the draft, which conscripts *some** to benefit (the story runs) "all."

The all-volunteer force has produced the world's best military . . . without "slave" labor.

Comedian Rob Schneider thinks differently.

"We must once again recommit ourselves to one Nation under God, indivisible," he [posted](#) to X recently. "Therefore, we must restore the military draft for our Nation's young people.

"Each and every American, at eighteen years of age, must serve two years of military service. They could also choose to serve part of that time overseas or in country in a volunteer capacity," he went on.

"Unlike in today's Universities, our young people will learn how truly great their country is and how unique and incredible are the Freedoms that this Nation bestows upon them." But wouldn't the best place to learn of American freedoms be living free in America?

Other criticism leaned to mockery, [such as](#) the parody movie poster of *Deuce Bigelow Joins the Army*.

Schneider later [clarified](#) that he aims for *less* military action: "A military with EVERY SEGMENT OF SOCIETY REPRESENTED would make the DEPLOYMENT of TROOPS and foreign wars LESS likely as there would be MORE accountability at the highest levels of power."

This notion is, [explains](#) *The Epoch Times*, "part of a public appeal for Americans to return to traditional values."

But surely the all-volunteer service is more traditional, the norm for most of our history, and, especially in the sense that freedom to join, or not, embodies liberty better than coercion does.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.

* The all-volunteer force is admittedly not an exact replica of our society, representing "every segment." It is better than that. Better educated. Better motivated. In better shape. Consider that the military [cannot use](#) at least 12 percent of the population for *any* purpose.