

NEWS RELEASE
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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AIR FORCE REFUSES TO
PLACE SELMA OFF LIMITS

WASHINGTON, D. C. September 23 - The Air Force has declined to act on a request from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) that Selma, Alabama be declared off limits to personnel from Craig Air Force Base.

The request was made by Worth Long, SNCC staff coordinator, in a conference with Craig Commander Richard Ault on Monday, September 16. The request was reinforced with a telegram from SNCC Chairman John Lewis to Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara after Long's arrest and beating in a Selma jail last Monday evening.

The Department of Defense said here Colonel Ault had turned down the request because "the commander may not intervene on behalf of persons not under his command."

After the first refusal SNCC wired McNamara and Colonel Ault, again asking that Selma be placed off limits to help settle racial problems there.

68 demonstrators were arrested there Monday, September 16, and Long, who was an observer at the demonstrations, was arrested and beaten by Deputy Sheriff W. T. Marvel in the jail.

Over 100 demonstrators have been jailed there in a week of protest.

In Atlanta, SNCC Chairman John Lewis said demonstrations would continue there until "every vestige of segregation has been removed."

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee began working in Selma and Dallas County in February, 1963.

The Atlanta-based student anti-segregation group maintains voter registration and direct action projects in Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Louisiana, Virginia and Maryland.