Since the end of conscripted military service in the 1970s, the United States has struggled with the challenges, demands, opportunities, and costs of not only an all-volunteer force, but with the enhanced expectation of -- and reliance upon -- the Reserves and National Guard. This bibliography highlights that transformation's unique impact on readiness, recruiting, training, retention, diversity issues, quality of life, leadership development, and the relationship between the all-volunteer force and the citizens it serves.
The patriot volunteer, fighting for country and his rights, makes the most reliable soldier on earth.

—Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson

With the signing of the peace agreement in Paris today, and after receiving a report from the Secretary of the Army that he foresees no need for further inductions, I wish to inform you [the American people] that the Armed Forces henceforth will depend exclusively on volunteer soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines. Use of the draft has ended.

—Melvin Laird
Secretary of Defense
27 January 1973

In September 1972, I oversaw the end of the military draft in my role as secretary of defense. At that time, the Vietnam War was winding down after dividing our country and scarring our military. I believed then that we did the right thing by ending conscription and instituting an all-volunteer military. In addition, as the so-called “Father of the All-Volunteer Force,” I believe it even more strongly now.

—Melvin Laird
Former Secretary of Defense
28 October 2004
PREFACE

Since the end of conscripted military service in the 1970s, the United States has struggled with the challenges, demands, opportunities, and costs of not only an all-volunteer force, but with the enhanced expectation of—and reliance upon—the Reserves and National Guard.

This bibliography highlights that transformation’s unique impact on readiness, recruiting, training, retention, diversity issues, quality of life, leadership development, and the relationship between the all-volunteer force and the citizens it serves.

With the exception of certain notable materials, resources listed in this bibliography are dated 2008 to the present. All items are available through the USAWC Library. For your convenience, we have added U.S. Army War College Library call numbers, Internet addresses, or database links at the end of each entry. Websites were accessed February 2013.

This bibliography and others compiled by our research librarians are available online through the Library’s home page at http://www.carlisle.army.mil/library/bibliographies.htm.

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THE ALL-VOLUNTEER FORCE

A Selected Bibliography

February 2013

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