

# America's Army: Making the All-Volunteer Force

By *Beth Bailey*

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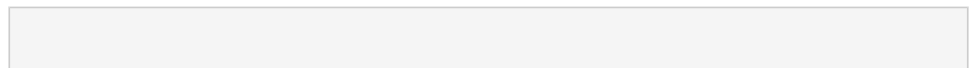
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**America's Army: Making the All-Volunteer Force** By Beth Bailey

In 1973, not long after the last American combat troops returned from Vietnam, President Nixon fulfilled his campaign promise and ended the draft. No longer would young men find their futures determined by the selective service system; nor would the U.S. military have a guaranteed source of recruits.

*America's Army* is the story of the all-volunteer force, from the draft protests and policy proposals of the 1960s through the Iraq War. It is also a history of America in the post-Vietnam era. In the Army, America directly confronted the legacies of civil rights and black power, the women's movement, and gay rights. The volunteer force raised questions about the meaning of citizenship and the rights and obligations it carries; about whether liberty or equality is the more central American value; what role the military should play in American society not only in time of war, but in time of peace. And as the Army tried to create a volunteer force that could respond effectively to complex international situations, it had to compete with other "employers" in a national labor market and sell military service alongside soap and soft drinks.

Based on exhaustive archival research, as well as interviews with Army officers and recruiters, advertising executives, and policy makers, *America's Army* confronts the political, moral, and social issues a volunteer force raises for a democratic society as well as for the defense of our nation.



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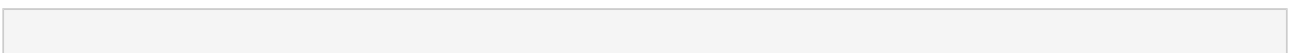
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## **America's Army: Making the All-Volunteer Force** By Beth Bailey Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #177944 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Belknap Press
- Published on: 2009-11-23
- Released on: 2009-12-23
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.52" h x 1.09" w x 6.44" l, 1.50 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 352 pages



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## **Editorial Review**

### Review

Compact, comprehensive, and empathetic, *America's Army* provides a much-needed account of the all-volunteer army, from its difficult birth after Vietnam down to its challenging present. An important story exceedingly well told. (Andrew J. Bacevich, author of *The New American Militarism: How Americans Are Seduced by War*)

Every American should read Beth Bailey's excellent book on America's Army. It brilliantly charts how the huge shift away from the draft came to be and what we might expect in the future. (The Honorable Patricia Schroeder, Former Congresswoman, Colorado)

*America's Army* will be indispensable reading for anyone who wants to understand how the modern army works and how this democracy 'provides for the common defense.' (Colonel Matthew Moten, Professor, United States Military Academy at West Point and author of *The Delafield Commission and the American Military Profession*)

An excellent history on a very complicated and controversial topic that deals with such emotional subjects as race, the role of women, and the Army's commitment to combat. (Brian McAllister Linn, Professor of History, Texas A and M University)

The powerful and remarkable story of how the All-Volunteer Force confronted the challenges surrounding race, gender, sexuality and citizenship in creating today's American Army. (Michael Sherry, author of *In the Shadow of War: The United States Since the 1930s*)

*America's Army* will become a major addition to the history of the post-Vietnam armed forces. (Ronald Spector, Professor of History and International Affairs, The George Washington University)

Beth Bailey has written an accessible and informative history of the [All-Volunteer Force]. It's a valuable reference work for anyone interested in the armed forces. The book has added value today, given the strain under which the military has found itself in fighting lengthy insurgencies in both Afghanistan and Iraq. (Doug Bandow *Washington Times* 2009-12-23)

This excellent analytical history is particularly timely. It thoroughly surveys the volunteer force's emergence from the so-called "hollow army" over the past decades, and it analyzes such specific issues as the effect on gender roles of the greater number of women in service, the effect on career patterns due to the absence of a draft, and how to instill the warrior ethos, assuming that that is still necessary in an age of high-tech combat. The ultimate questions raised are whether the all-volunteer force doesn't sacrifice civic responsibility to individual liberty and what the answer to that question implies. Intensely serious, painstakingly thorough, and deserving addition to collections concerned with military and current affairs. (Roland Green *Booklist* 2009-10-07)

### About the Author

Beth Bailey is Professor of History at Temple University.

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