September/October 2009



Military Corner

## The United States Army

## Recruiting

Search as I did, I couldn't find any history of recruiting for the Army, but it must obviously go back to the beginnings of the American Revolution. We had to have men to fight them darn Redcoats, after all!

Military recruitment has always been important, but in 1973, when the draft ended and the U.S. converted to an All-Volunteer military,

recruitment became even more vital. Over the last some 35 years, recruiting has faced monumental challenges—the largest of which is an increase in anti-military sentiment (mirroring the growth of Liberalism, the abandonment of traditional American values, and the current unbelievable politically correct atmosphere) [General Patton, where are you!]. Still, the Army, and the US military in general, has carried through with its responsibilities. The military has been downsized, benefits have been increased, and technology continues to be on our side—all resulting in a steady flow of volunteers.

I was surprised to learn that 81 other countries (that's the majority of countries in the world) also have volunteer armies.

There are currently 144 listed Army recruiting covers—20s, 30s, 40s, and a few odds and ends. One thing notable items here, as new Military covers drastically dwindled in recent decades, Recruiting covers were one of the last holdouts, sine cit was such an excellent form of advertising.



