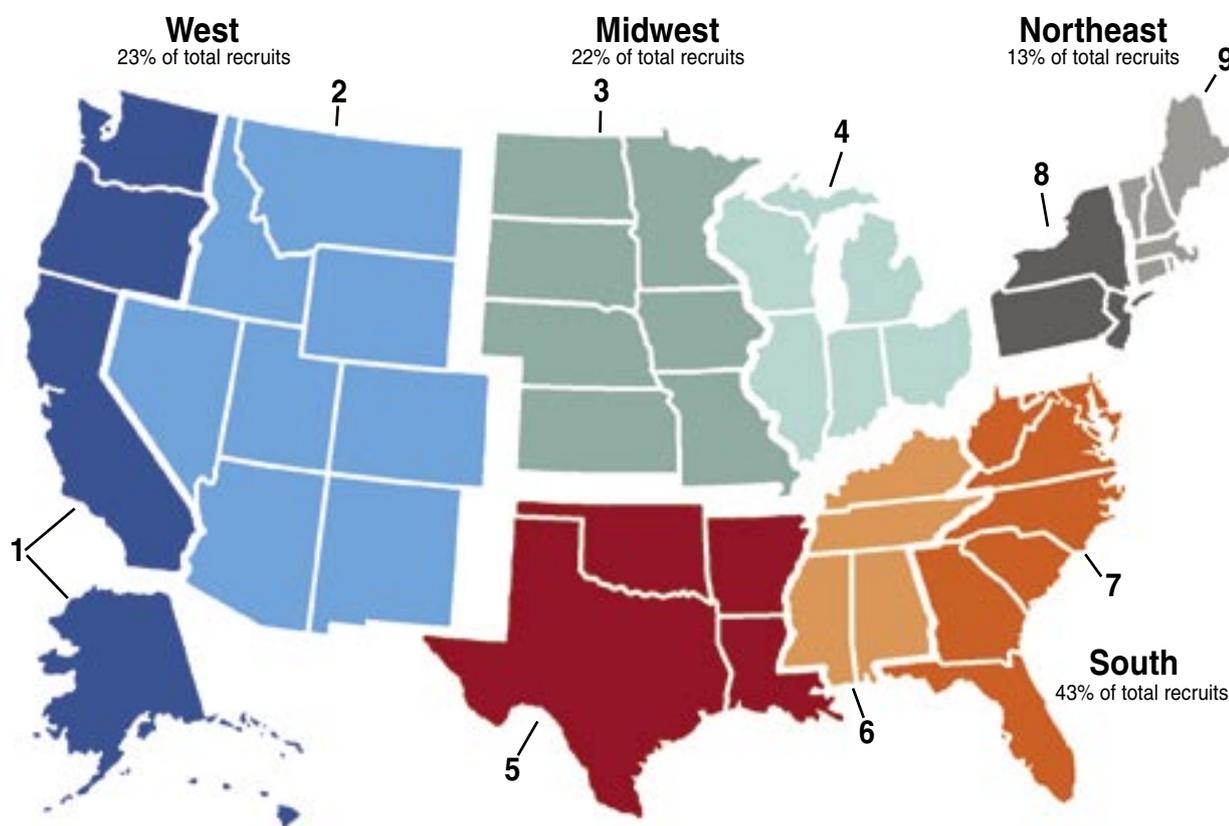


## Where US Troops Come From

The South's strong tradition of military service, long recognized by scholars, pays heavy dividends for today's US armed forces. A recent Heritage Foundation study found that the South, in 2007, accounted for 43 percent of new enlistees, though it had only about 36 percent of recruit-age US men

(aged 18 to 24 years). If the South was overrepresented, however, the Northeast was underrepresented; it had some 18 percent of recruit-age men, but it provided less than 13 percent of recruits. The West and Midwest fall between these two extremes.



### Ratio of Enlisted Recruits To Recruit-Age Men

1. Pacific	0.88	6. East South Central	1.10
2. Mountain	1.07	7. South Atlantic	1.17
3. West North Central	0.99	8. Middle Atlantic	0.73
4. East North Central	0.98	9. New England	0.73
5. West South Central	1.26		

Ratios less than 1.0 indicate underrepresentation of recruits, and ratios more than 1.0 represent overrepresentation.

Source: "Who Serves in the US Military? The Demographics of Enlisted Troops and Officers," p. 9, Shanea J. Watkins and James Sherk, The Heritage Foundation, Aug. 21, 2008. Posted at [http://www.heritage.org/Research/NationalSecurity/upload/CDA\\_08-05.pdf](http://www.heritage.org/Research/NationalSecurity/upload/CDA_08-05.pdf).