



George Washington and the Continental Army. Recruiting for the Continental Army remained a problem for Washington throughout the war. Most campaigns were fought using the Continental Army alongside local militia regiments, with mixed results. Several states instituted conscription, or the draft, in an effort to fill the thinning ranks,

but without much success. Washington described his soldiers as “. . . half starved, always in rags, without pay, and experiencing every species of distress which human nature is capable of undergoing . . .” Here we see Generals Washington and Lafayette at Valley Forge.