

2024 Survey of Military Veterans

Fielding and Sample specifications:

- Dates: August 19 – September 3, 2024
- Eligibility: respondents should meet three eligibility criteria:
 - U.S. citizens
 - Age 18 or older
 - Previously served in the US military
- N = 2,100

Programming and Design specifications:

- Paging design: display one question per page unless otherwise specified.
- Nonresponse prompting: For every item to which the R fails to respond, please prompt the respondent to enter a response.
- Types: items are “single-punch” radio button responses unless otherwise specified.
- No backup option: no “back” button on the page.
- No progress bar: no progress bar is displayed on the page.
- All available YouGov profile items delivered merged with the data.
 - birthyr
 - gender
 - race
 - educ
 - marstat
 - child18
 - employ
 - faminc_new
 - inputstate
 - pid3
 - pid7
 - votereg
 - presvote20post
 - ideo5
 - religpew
 - pew_bornagain
 - pre_religimp
 - pew_churatd
 - pew_prayer
 - newsint
 - hispanic
 - urbanicity

- ownhome

When did you serve on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces?

Please choose EACH period in which you served, even if just for part of the period.

[SELECT ALL THAT APPLY]

- September 2001 or later (1)
- August 1990 to August 2001 (including Persian Gulf War) (2)
- May 1975 to July 1990 (3)
- Vietnam Era (August 1964 to April 1975) (4)
- February 1955 to July 1964 (5)
- Korean War (July 1950 to January 1955) (6)
- January 1947 to June 1950 (7)
- World War II (December 1941 to December 1946) (8)
- November 1941 or earlier (9)

Page Break

In which branch or branches did you serve on active duty? Please choose EACH branch in which you served.

Army (1)

Navy (2)

Air Force (3)

Marines (4)

Coast Guard (5)

Army National Guard (6)

Reserves (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard) (7)

Other (8)

Page Break

How proud are you to be an American?

- Extremely proud (1)
- Very proud (2)
- Moderately proud (3)
- Only a little proud (4)
- Not proud at all (5)

Page Break

How much confidence, if any, do you have in the military to act in the best interests of the public?

- A great deal of confidence (1)
- A fair amount of confidence (2)
- Not too much confidence (3)
- No confidence at all (4)

Page Break

Please "grade" the performance of each of the following during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan (where "A" indicates the best possible performance and "F" indicates the worst possible performance).

	A (1)	B (2)	C (3)	D (4)	F (5)
The performance of presidents as Commanders in Chief (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The performance of flag officers (e.g. generals and admirals,) (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The performance of military service members (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

Do you favor or oppose drafting women, as well as men, if the military draft were reinstated?

- Strongly favor (1)
- Somewhat favor (2)
- Somewhat oppose (3)
- Strongly oppose (4)

Page Break

Which of the following two statements comes closest to your view, even if neither is exactly correct?

- Diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) efforts are essential parts of warfighting and necessary for achieving success in military operations. (1)
- Diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) efforts are NOT essential parts of warfighting and are NOT necessary for achieving success in military operations. (2)

Page Break

When it comes to how much attention the military currently pays to increasing diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), would you say the military pays...

- Too much attention (1)
- Too little attention (2)
- About the right amount of attention (3)

Page Break

There is much discussion as to the amount of money the government in Washington should spend for national defense and military purposes.

How do you feel about this? Do you think we are spending too little, about the right amount or too much?

- Too little (1)
- About the right amount (2)
- Too much (3)

Page Break

Do you think that there should be racial and gender preferences in promotion decisions within the military, or do you think that promotion decisions should be determined only on merit and race and gender should not be a factor?

- There should be racial and gender preferences in promotion decisions (1)
- Race and gender should not be a factor (2)

Page Break

A meritocratic system (or meritocracy) rewards and promotes individuals based on their performance, credentials and skills.

Since the time that you served, do you think the United States military has become more meritocratic, less meritocratic or remained about the same with respect to meritocracy?

- Become more meritocratic (1)
- Become less meritocratic (2)
- Remained about the same with respect to meritocracy (3)

Page Break

What country do you think poses the greatest threat to the U.S.?

Page Break

Do you, yourself, feel that our national defense is stronger now than it needs to be, not strong enough or about right at the present time?

Stronger than it needs to be (1)

Not strong enough (2)

About right (3)

Page Break

Generally speaking, would you say things with the military are heading in the RIGHT direction, or are they heading in the WRONG direction?

Right direction (1)

Wrong direction (2)

Page Break

How do each following affect the likelihood that you would advise a young family member (child, niece, nephew, etc.) to join the military?

Are you more likely or less likely to advise them to join?

	Much more likely (1)	Somewhat more likely (2)	No effect (3)	Somewhat less likely (4)	Much less likely (5)
The reports of sexual assault in the military (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The increasing focus on diversity, equity and inclusion at every level in the military (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The expanded benefits provided by the Post-9/11 GI Bill (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The reduction in deployment time (i.e. lowering the deployment-to-dwell ratio to 1:3) (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The on-going possibility of budgetary cuts to military spending (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The growing danger of military conflict and war with other countries (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

The performance of the military during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan (7)



Page Break

Considering everything, would you advise a young family member (child, niece, nephew, etc.) to join the military today?

Yes, would advise joining (1)

No, would not advise joining (2)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If Considering everything, would you advise a young family member (child, niece, nephew, etc.) to jo... = Yes, would advise joining

Is each of the following a major factor, a minor factor, or not a factor in why you would advise a young family member (child, niece, nephew, etc.) to join the military?

	Major factor (1)	Minor factor (2)	Not a factor (3)
Pay and benefits (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To advance career opportunities (e.g. job training, skills, work experience) (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To pay for future education (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To promote personal development (e.g. discipline, self-esteem, character, honor) (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To serve the country (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To continue the family tradition of service (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To experience the world and experience an adventure (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

Display This Question:

If Considering everything, would you advise a young family member (child, niece, nephew, etc.) to jo... = No, would not advise joining

Is each of the following a major factor, minor factor, or not a factor in why you would not advise a young family member (child, niece, nephew, etc.) to join the military?

	Major factor (1)	Minor factor (2)	Not a factor (3)
The possibility of physical injury or death (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The possibility of PTSD or other psychological or emotional issues (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The potential to go to war (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mistrust of political leaders (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Poor treatment of veterans (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The military's current DEI and other social policies (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pay and benefits (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The amount of time away from family (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

Please tell us how much political extremism you witnessed in the military during your time serving.

- A lot (1)
- Some (2)
- Only a little (3)
- None at all (4)

Page Break

In the time since you served, do you think the United States military has become more or less focused on warfighting and lethality?

- More focused on warfighting and lethality (1)
- Less focused on warfighting and lethality (2)
- Kept about the same amount of focus on warfighting and lethality (3)

Page Break

Considering everything you now know about military service, if you had the chance to make the decision again, would you choose to join the military, or not?

Would join again (1)

Would not join again (2)

Page Break

In November 2024, who would you vote for in the presidential election if these were the candidates?"

- Kamala Harris (D) (1)
- Donald Trump (R) (2)
- Chase Oliver (L) (3)
- Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (I) (4)
- Other (5)
- I will not vote (6)

Page Break
