

**The Center for a New American Security (CNAS) and *Foreign Policy Magazine*
Health and Future of the U.S. Military Survey Results**

Note: Due to rounding, not all answers equal 100 percent.

HEALTH OF THE FORCE

Would you say that the U.S. military today is stronger, weaker, or about the same as it was five years ago?

- 25% Stronger
- 60% Weaker
- 15% About the same

What is the SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT reason you believe the U.S. military is either stronger, weaker, or about the same as it was FIVE years ago?

Among those who think it stronger (25%)

- 7% Funding
- 2% Civilian leadership/oversight
- 26% Wars in Iraq/Afghanistan
- 53% Personnel with more experience, education, and training
- 0.3% Altered recruiting standards
- 2% Pace of troop deployments and rotations
- 9% Other (please specify) _____

Among those who think it weaker (60%)

- 10% Funding
- 21% Civilian leadership/oversight
- 20% Wars in Iraq/Afghanistan
- 0.4% Personnel with more experience, education, and training
- 2% Altered recruiting standards
- 35% Pace of troop deployments and rotations
- 11% Other (please specify) _____

Would you say that the U.S. military today is stronger, weaker, or about the same as it was 10 years ago?

- 35% Stronger
- 52% Weaker
- 12% About the same

Would you say that the U.S. military today is stronger, weaker, or about the same as it was 15 years ago?

- 34% Stronger
- 51% Weaker
- 13% About the same

Would you say that the morale of the U.S. military today is very high, somewhat high, somewhat low, or very low?

- 17% Very high
- 47% Somewhat high
- 22% Somewhat low
- 4% Very low
- 10% Don't know

Should the level of U.S. defense spending be increased or decreased over the next 5 to 10 years, or should it be kept about the same?

- 77% Increased
- 6% Decreased
- 17% Kept about the same

For each of the military services below, please indicate on a scale from 1 to 10 how concerned you are about its health over the next 5 to 10 years, given the challenges it may face (e.g., recruitment, retention, recapitalization, modernization, overall funding), with 1 meaning you have no concern, 10 meaning you are extremely concerned, and 5 meaning you have a moderate degree of concern.

Air Force	5.7
Army	7.9
Marine Corps	7.0
Navy	5.9

Below is a list of U.S. military services. Please rate each service's readiness to rapidly deploy overseas and successfully conduct combat operations in a crisis situation where the need for such an operation is necessary TODAY. Use a scale from 1 to 10, with 10 meaning that the service is completely ready to deploy and successfully execute such a mission; 1 meaning that the service is not currently capable of deploying and executing such a mission. A rating of 5 means that the service stands at an average level of readiness.

Air Force	6.6
Army	4.7
Marine Corps	5.7
Navy	6.8

Below is a list of groups affected by military service. Please rate the level of care or treatment being provided to each group on a scale from 1 to 10, with 10 meaning that the treatment or care for the group by the United States is exemplary; 1 meaning that the treatment or care is unacceptable. A rating of 5 means that the treatment or care is average.

Families of deployed military personnel	5.5
Physically wounded veterans who are still in the military	5.8
Mentally wounded veterans who are still in the military	4.4
Physically wounded veterans who have left the military	4.1
Mentally wounded veterans who have left the military	3.3

IRAQ WAR

Below are a number of decisions made during the war in Iraq. Please evaluate the impact of these actions on the prospects for ultimate success in the mission on a scale from 1 to 10, with 10 meaning the decision was extremely positive for ultimate mission success; 1 meaning the decision was very negative for the mission. A rating of 5 means that the decision did not impact the mission either positively or negatively.

Not having more troops in Iraq at the start of the invasion	3.3
Disbanding the Iraqi military	3.1
Rapidly returning sovereignty to a new Iraqi administration	4.9
Rapidly holding elections in Iraq	5.6
Not allowing a partition in Iraq	5.3

Below are a number of actions or policies undertaken by the Department of Defense since the beginning of combat operations in Iraq. Please rate the impact of these actions or policies on advancing the prospects for ultimate success in Iraq on a scale from 1 to 10, with 10 meaning the decision was extremely positive for mission success; 1 meaning the decision was very negative for the mission. A rating of 5 means that the decision did not impact the mission either positively or negatively.

Lengthening Army tours from 12 to 15 months	4.9
Shortening time at home for units between deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan	3.9
Changing the military's recruiting standards for admission into basic training	4.0
Increasing the size of Special Operations Forces and the authority of Special Operations Command	7.2
Increasing the number of U.S. ground forces in Baghdad under the so-called "surge"	7.7
Extensively employing Reserve and National Guard units and personnel	6.1

"The demands of the war in Iraq have broken the U.S. military."

8%	Strongly Agree
33%	Somewhat Agree
23%	Somewhat Disagree
33%	Strongly Disagree
2%	Don't know

"The demands of the war in Iraq have stretched the U.S. military dangerously thin."

52%	Strongly Agree
36%	Somewhat Agree
7%	Somewhat Disagree
3%	Strongly Disagree
0.4%	Don't know

Which country do you feel has gained the greatest strategic advantage from the war in Iraq?

19%	United States
37%	Iran
3%	Iraq
22%	China
13%	Russia
4%	Other, please specify

In your judgment, what level of impact will General David Petraeus' counterinsurgency strategy and the so-called "surge" of additional U.S. forces into Baghdad have on the ultimate achievement of the US military's goals in Iraq?

- 44% Very positive
- 44% Somewhat positive
- 3% Somewhat negative
- 1% Very negative
- 8% No impact

Which of the following statements best reflects your personal and professional view?

- 13% The civilian leadership set reasonable goals for the U.S. military to accomplish in post-Saddam Iraq
- 74% The civilian leadership set unreasonable goals for the U.S. military to accomplish in post-Saddam Iraq
- 11% Don't know

In your view, is the equipment and protection (e.g., body armor, up-armored HMMVs, etc.) provided to U.S. forces in Iraq and Afghanistan adequate or inadequate?

- 34% Adequate
- 45% Inadequate
- 19% Don't know

NEXT WAR

If a war were to begin today, how prepared do you believe the United States military is to successfully fight the major combat phase of a conflict in the following locations? Please rate on a 1 to 10 scale, with 10 meaning that the U.S. military is fully prepared to successfully execute such a mission; 1 meaning that the U.S. military is presently unable to successfully execute such a mission. A rating of 5 means that the U.S. military could execute the mission at a moderate but acceptable level of risk.

Taiwan Straits	4.9
North Korea	4.7
Iran	4.5
Syria	5.1

Given the current deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan, how reasonable or unreasonable would it be to expect the U.S. military to successfully wage another major war somewhere else in the world TODAY?

- 3% Very reasonable
- 14% Somewhat reasonable
- 30% Somewhat unreasonable
- 50% Very unreasonable
- 1% Don't know

TORTURE

"Waterboarding is torture."

- 30% Strongly Agree
- 16% Somewhat Agree
- 18% Somewhat Disagree
- 24% Strongly Disagree
- 10% Don't know

"Torture is never acceptable."

- 33% Strongly Agree
- 20% Somewhat Agree
- 25% Somewhat Disagree
- 19% Strongly Disagree
- 2% Don't know

CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONS

Below is a list of some U.S. government institutions and departments. Please indicate on a scale from 1 to 10 how much confidence you have in these institutions, with 1 meaning you have no confidence at all, 10 meaning you have a great DEAL OF confidence, and 5 meaning you have moderate LEVEL OF confidence. (Did not ask Active Duty)

The President of the United States	5.5
United States Congress	2.7
Department of Veterans' [sic] Affairs	4.5
Central Intelligence Agency	4.7
Department of Defense	5.6
Department of State	4.1

Below is a list of tasks and missions that PRIVATE CONTRACTORS have performed in Iraq. Please pick the ALL tasks or missions that you believe are appropriate for private contractors to undertake WITHOUT DIRECT MILITARY SUPERVISION.

- 4% Patrolling Iraqi villages
- 23% Providing perimeter security for the "Green Zone"
- 60% Providing security for State Department personnel
- 76% Providing logistical support to U.S. personnel (e.g., food and laundry service, etc.)
- 11% Protecting Department of Defense convoys

How well informed do you believe the United States' elected leaders are about the U.S. military today?

- 5% Very informed
- 27% Somewhat informed
- 33% Somewhat uninformed
- 33% Very uninformed
- 1% Don't know

Do you believe that, other things being equal, a President of the United States with military experience will be more respected by America's soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines than a President without military experience?

- 31% Certainly more respected
- 33% Very likely more respected
- 22% Somewhat likely more respected
- 1% Somewhat unlikely more respected
- 1% Very unlikely more respected
- 11% No impact

FILLING THE RANKS

Which of the following steps do you support to increase recruiting numbers in the U.S. military (choose all that apply):

- 58% Allow a larger percentage of those who have GED but not a high school diploma
- 38% Reinstate the draft
- 47% Increase enlistment bonuses
- 7% Increase use of criminal, health, and other "waivers" for service
- 22% Allow gays and lesbians to serve openly
- 47% Increase the maximum age restriction
- 78% Expand options for legal permanent residents to serve in exchange for citizenship

PREPARING THE MILITARY FOR THE FUTURE

Below is a list of things that could potentially assist the U.S. military in winning the Global War on Terror. Please choose the TWO most important things you believe the United States government must do to win the war on terror.

- 31% More robust diplomatic tools
- 73% Improve intelligence
- 21% Increase the size of U.S. ground forces
- 19% Increase the number of troops with foreign language skills
- 38% Further increase the size of Special Operations Forces
- 13% Develop a cadre of operational, deployable civilian experts
- 14% Increase spending on economic development assistance programs

Which of the following do you believe are CORE missions of the U.S. military (pick ALL that apply)?

- 95% Fighting and winning wars against other states
- 61% Stability operations
- 22% Reconstruction operations
- 88% Deterrence
- 76% Counterterrorism
- 80% Counterinsurgency
- 64% Building the capacity of friends and allies to provide security

Below is a list of actions that have been suggested to help prepare the United States for the threats and challenges in the 21st century. Please choose the TWO most important things you believe the United States must do to prepare for the threats and challenges of the 21st century.

- 38% Increase the size of the ground forces (Army, Marine Corps)
- 30% Increase the size of Special Operations Forces
- 17% Increase general purpose forces' ability to train, advise, and equip host nation forces
- 10% Increase the size of the Navy's fleet
- 21% Improve space and cyberspace warfare capabilities
- 24% More robust diplomatic tools
- 7% Develop a cadre of operational, deployable civilian experts
- 11% Deploy a missile defense shield
- 23% Increase the depth of capacity in "high demand, low density" specialties (e.g., psychological operations, intelligence, military police, engineers)
- 2% Bring a new generation of nuclear weapons online
- 10% Increase strategic airlift

DEMOGRAPHICS

Please provide us your name. Your name will be made available to the public, but your individual answers will be kept strictly confidential.

From what service did you retire (or “to what service do you belong” for active)?

33% Air Force
35% Army
23% Navy
8% Marine Corps
0.2% Other

What was your rank upon retirement (or “what is your rank” for active)?

1% General/Admiral
2% Lieutenant General/Vice Admiral
2% Major General/Rear Admiral (Upper Half)
2% Brigadier General/Rear Admiral (Lower Half)
31% Colonel/Captain
37% Lieutenant Colonel/Commander
24% Major/Lieutenant Commander
1% Other

For how many years did you serve in the United States military (or “have you served in the United States military” for active)?

17% 31+ years
64% 21-30 years
14% 16-20 years
4% 11-15 years
1% 6-10 years
0.2% 5 years or less

How many years ago did you retire from military service? (not asked of Active Duty)

8% Active duty
3% 1 year or less
6% 2-5 years
11% 5-10 years
71% 11+ years

Did you attend a service academy for college (U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, Air Force Academy)?

12% Yes
88% No

[Operational Experience] Please check all below that apply:

10% Served in Iraq and/or Afghanistan
62% Served in another conflict zone
56% Deployed elsewhere
10% Never deployed

Please select your gender

97% Male
3% Female

What is your age?

38% 71+ years
34% 61-70 years
17% 51-60 years
6% 41-50 years
6% 31-40 years
.03% 25-30 years