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**The Washington Post**



**Toplines and Methodology**

***The Washington Post/Kaiser Family Foundation  
Survey of Iraq and Afghanistan Active Duty Soldiers  
and Veterans***

**March 2014**

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## Methodology

The *Washington Post/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey Project* is a partnership combining survey research and reporting to better inform the public. The *Survey of Iraq and Afghanistan Active Duty Soldiers and Veterans*, the 27<sup>th</sup> in this series, was conducted by telephone August 1 - December 15, 2013, among a representative random national sample of 819 adults who served in the Iraq or Afghanistan wars as members of the U.S. military in the period after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 (including 231 who are currently on active duty).

Sampling, data collection, weighting and tabulation were managed by Social Science Research Solutions (SSRS) in close collaboration with *Washington Post* and Kaiser Family Foundation researchers.

More than 2 million Americans have fought in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, amounting to roughly 1 percent of the U.S. adult population. In order to efficiently sample this rare group, five different sample sources were used, including:

- 1) Weekly national omnibus - Nineteen weekly, random sample surveys of the general public were used to identify eligible respondents. After completing the omnibus survey, qualified individuals were then routed to complete the Iraq or Afghanistan soldier survey, yielding 255 interviews.
- 2) Prescreened sample - Individuals who had previously indicated on a recent national SSRS omnibus survey that they or a household member were eligible were recontacted, yielding 139 interviews.
- 3) Military bases: Landline phones - A random sample of households within five miles of the 27 largest military bases in the U.S., yielding 175 interviews via landline phone.
- 4) Military bases: Cell phones - Cell phone billing zip codes were used when available to identify and randomly sample cell phone users living near these military bases, yielding 134 interviews via cell phone.
- 5) IAVA member list - A random selection of members of the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America organization (IAVA), yielding 116 interviews. IAVA is a national advocacy group of about 160,000 soldiers who were involved in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Women were oversampled from this list to enable accurate analysis of this important subgroup. IAVA members were emailed advance notice of the survey prior to fielding, however the organization did not participate in the survey design or review the survey instrument in advance of fielding.

Regardless of the sample source, all respondents were screened to verify that they met the criteria of: 1) having ever served in the U.S. military, National Guard or the military reserves at any point since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks; 2) having served in Operation Iraqi Freedom or New Dawn (the war in Iraq), or Operation Enduring Freedom (the war in Afghanistan). The screening questions were as follows:

1. Have you or has anyone in your household ever served in the U.S. military, the National Guard or the military reserves? IF YES: Was that you, or someone else in your household?

2. (Ask if self and/or household member served in U.S. military, National Guard or Reserves) Did (you/that person/either you or that person) serve at any point since the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, or not?

3. (Ask if ever served in the U.S. military and served at any point since 9/11) Thinking about the time since the 9/11 terrorist attacks, did you serve in (INSERT), or not? Did you serve in (INSERT), or not? (ITEMS ROTATED)

- a. Operation Iraqi Freedom or New Dawn, the official names for the war in Iraq
- b. Operation Enduring Freedom, the official name for the war in Afghanistan

Both veterans and active duty military personnel were eligible to participate.<sup>1</sup> Interviews were conducted in English with users of both conventional and cellular phones (note: persons without a telephone could not be included in the random selection process). Respondents were also given the option to answer the survey in Spanish but no one chose to do so.

A multi-stage weighting design was applied to ensure an accurate representation of the population of service members and veterans who served in Iraq and/or Afghanistan (I/A) after September 11, 2001. The weighting process involved corrections for sample design, as well as sample weighting to match known demographics of the target population. The base weight accounted for the number of eligible household members for the landline sample and for the fact that omnibus respondents with both a landline and cell phone have a higher probability of selection. To account for the oversample of service members and veterans living around the military bases, the weight adjusts this group to reflect their share of the total I/A soldiers estimated by the omnibus (16 percent of I/A soldiers are estimated to live around these bases). In addition, the IAVA portion of the sample was adjusted to reflect their estimated share of the population (calculated using IAVA and Department of Defense (DoD) data, 7.5 percent of service members and veterans that served in Iraq and Afghanistan are estimated to be members of IAVA).

Demographic weighting parameters were based on the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies' *Returning Home from Iraq and Afghanistan: Assessment of Readjustment Needs of Veterans, Service Members, and Their Families* (which reflect official counts from the DoD Data Manpower Center) and were adjusted using the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) to reflect changes in demographics from 2010 to 2013 (since the benchmark data are 2010 estimates). Data were weighted on sex, age, ethnicity, marital status, branch of service, rank, status (regular, National Guard, or reserves), number of deployments and deployment to Iraq/Afghanistan.<sup>2</sup> All statistical tests of

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<sup>1</sup> The survey does not include those currently deployed, who represent about 3 percent of those who served in Afghanistan and Iraq.

<sup>2</sup> The data are not weighted by education as the DoD data reflect education level at a soldier's time of deployment and do not take into account any

significance account for the effect of weighting. Selected demographics are included in the table below.

<b>Selected Demographics</b>			
	<b>Unweighted TOTAL</b>	<b>TOTAL Unweighted %</b>	<b>TOTAL Weighted %</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>819</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>BASIC DEMOS</b>			
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	661	81%	88%
Female	158	19%	12%
<b>Age</b>			
18-29	182	22%	35%
30-39	291	36%	37%
40-49	205	25%	15%
50+	132	16%	11%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>			
White	538	66%	64%
African American	124	15%	13%
Hispanic	94	11%	16%
<b>SERVICE RELATED DEMOS</b>			
<b>Rank</b>			
Commissioned officer	131	16%	15%
Non-officer (NET)	682	83%	85%
Non-commissioned officer	385	47%	39%
Warrant officer	21	3%	1%
Enlisted person	276	34%	45%
<b>Service type</b>			
Combat arms/both (NET)	327	40%	38%
Combat arms	271	33%	31%
Both	56	7%	7%
Combat support	453	55%	57%
<b>Branch at last deployment</b>			
Army	441	54%	51%
Navy	123	15%	17%
Air Force	160	20%	19%
Marine Corps	88	11%	12%
<b>Country</b>			
Iraq only	259	32%	34%
Afghanistan only	147	18%	20%
Both	413	50%	46%
<b>Current Service Status</b>			
Active (NET)	330	40%	41%
Active duty	231	28%	23%
National guard	42	5%	8%
Reserves	57	7%	10%
No longer in military	489	60%	59%

change in education status after deployment (for example, attending college via the GI-Bill).

Representatives of *The Washington Post* and the Kaiser Family Foundation worked together to develop the survey questionnaire and analyze the results. Each organization bears the sole responsibility for the work that appears under its name. The project team from the Kaiser Family Foundation included: Mollyann Brodie, Ph.D., Claudia Deane, Bianca DiJulio, and Jamie Firth. The project team from *The Washington Post* included: Peyton M. Craighill and Scott Clement.

The results from the full survey have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus five percentage points. For results based on subgroups, the margin of sampling error may be higher. Sample sizes and margin of sampling errors for some key groups are shown below; other subgroups are available by request. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

Group	N (unweighted)	Margin of sampling error (percentage points)
Total	819	±5
Rank		
Officer	131	±12
Non-officer	682	±5
Combat Status		
Combat arms*	327	±7
Combat support	453	±7
Gender		
Men	661	±5
Women	158	±11
Branch		
Army	441	±7
Navy	123	±12
Air Force	160	±11
Marines	88	±14
Operation		
Iraq only	259	±8
Afghanistan only	147	±11
Both Iraq and Afghanistan	413	±7

\*Those respondents who indicated that they served in both combat arms and combat support roles are included in the combat arms category.

Full information about the survey is available at <http://kff.org/other/poll-finding/survey-of-iraq-and-afghanistan-active-duty-soldiers-and-veterans>.

Please note: (1) Table percentages may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. (2) Values less than 0.5 percent are indicated by an asterisk (\*). (3) "vol." indicates that a response was volunteered by respondent and not an explicitly offered choice.

SCREENER

1. Have you or has anyone in your household ever served in the U.S. military, the National Guard or the military reserves? IF YES: Was that you, or someone else in your household?

2. (Ask if self and/or household member served in U.S. military, National Guard or Reserves) Did (you/that person/either you or that person) serve at any point since the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, or not?

3. (Ask if ever served in the U.S. military and served at any point since 9/11) Thinking about the time since the 9/11 terrorist attacks, did you serve in (INSERT), or not? Did you serve in (INSERT), or not? (ITEMS ROTATED)

12/15/13 - summary table based on total who served in Iraq or Afghanistan since 9/11/01

	Yes	No	No opinion
a. Operation Iraqi Freedom or New Dawn, the official names for the war in Iraq	81	19	*
b. Operation Enduring Freedom, the official name for the war in Afghanistan	66	34	0

1/2/3. Summary Table

	----- Served since 9/11 -----			
	NET	Iraq	Afghanistan	Both
12/15/13	100	34	20	46

MAIN SURVEY

4. Are you currently on active duty in the military, serving in the National Guard, serving in the Reserves or are you no longer in the military?

	Active duty	National Guard	Reserves	Not active	No opinion
12/15/13	23	8	10	59	0

5. At the time of your last deployment to serve in the (Iraq war/Afghanistan war/Iraq or Afghanistan wars) were you in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corp or Coast Guard? (If National Guard or Reserves, probe: And in what branch of the military was that?)

	Army	Navy	Air Force	Marine Corps	Coast Guard	Other	No opinion
12/15/13	51	17	19	12	*	*	*

5a. (Ask if in any branch of the military during their last deployment) At the time of your last deployment to serve in the (Iraq war/Afghanistan war/Iraq or Afghanistan wars) were you part of the regular component of the (Army/Navy/Air Force/Marine Corps/Coast Guard), (the National Guard,) or the Reserves?

	Regular component	National Guard	Reserves	No opinion
12/15/13	67	17	15	1

5/5a. Summary table based on total

	Served in any branch of the military ----- during last deployment -----				Served in other during	No
	NET	Regular component	National Guard	Reserves	last deployment	opinion
12/15/13	99	67	17	14	*	*

9. When you first joined the military, did you plan to serve for a long career of at least 20 years or detach after a shorter period?

	For at least 20 years	Detach after a shorter period	No opinion
12/15/13	48	45	7

10. 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?

	Yes, would	No, would not	No opinion
12/15/13	89	10	2

12a. Do you think the average member of the military is more or less patriotic than the average person who is not in the military, or are they no different? (ROTATE 12a-12b)

	More	Less	No different	No opinion
12/15/13	63	1	33	3

12b. Do you think the average member of the military tends to have better or worse moral and ethical values than the average person who is not in the military, or are they no different?

	Better	Worse	No different	No opinion
12/15/13	54	3	41	2

13. How would you rate the job the government is doing in meeting the needs of the current generation of veterans? Excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

	--- Excellent/good ---			--- Not so good/poor ---			No
	NET	Excellent	Good	NET	Not so good	Poor	opinion
12/15/13	41	5	36	56	26	30	2

14. Thinking about your own experience, how would you rate the job the government is doing in meeting your needs as a (soldier/veteran)? Excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

	--- Excellent/good ---			--- Not so good/poor ---			No
	NET	Excellent	Good	NET	Not so good	Poor	opinion
12/15/13	59	11	48	40	22	17	2

14a. (Ask if rated not so good or poor) What kind of help are you looking for from the government that you haven't gotten?

12/15/13

- 38 LIFE ASSISTANCE (NET)
  - 10 Disability benefits (easier/faster to apply/qualify/better benefits)
  - 6 Education/tuition (easier/faster to apply/better benefits)
  - 6 Job assistance (placement/help with getting better jobs/etc.)
  - 4 Family support/benefits (easier/faster to apply/more/better benefits)
  - 3 More/better VA benefits (general)
  - 4 Financial help/financial assistance
  - 2 Better GI bill benefits
- 3 HOUSING (SUBNET)
  - 2 Housing/better housing assistance (general)
  - 1 Help for homeless veterans
  - 2 Better help/support transitioning to civilian life
  - 1 Retirement benefits (easier to get/earlier/better benefits)
  - 2 Other life assistance mentions
- 33 HEALTHCARE (NET)
  - 28 More/better health/medical benefits (care/coverage)
  - 5 Mental health services/better mental health services (PTSD, etc.)
  - 2 Other healthcare mentions
- 16 BETTER ADMINISTRATION OF BENEFITS (NET)
  - 8 Better service from the VA (availability, responses, processing requests)
  - 5 Better/faster responses/processing of requests
  - 2 More proactive information dispersed on the benefits available
  - 2 Other better administration of benefits mentions
- 6 IN-SERVICE SUPPORT (NET)
  - 2 Better pay/raises (base pay, hazard pay, etc.)
  - 1 Better equipment/materials
  - 1 Better training
  - 1 Better job stability
  - 2 Other in-service support mentions
- 3 Better compensation (general) (easier to apply/more compensation)
- 2 Keep the promises made to me/give me what they owe me
- 4 Good/better help/support/benefits (general/overall)
- 3 Miscellaneous negative government-related comments
- 1 Government stop cutting military budget / maintain or increase budget
- 3 Other
- 11 Nothing
- 4 No opinion

Note: Multiple responses accepted - percentages exceed 100.

15. Which comes closer to your view: (In these time of budget deficits, benefits for future generations of soldiers must be reduced or the military will become increasingly unaffordable) OR (Benefits for future generations of soldiers SHOULD NOT be reduced, even if this contributes to budget deficits)?

	Benefits must be reduced	Benefits should not be reduced	No opinion
12/15/13	12	83	4



16. In general, do you think service members who serve 20 years and then retire get (more benefits) from the military than they deserve, (fewer benefits) than they deserve, or about the right amount given their service?

	More benefits	Fewer benefits	About the right amount	No opinion
12/15/13	7	33	56	3

17. And now thinking about service members who deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan and then separate from the military before the 20 year mark: do you think these service members get (more benefits) from the military than they deserve, (fewer benefits) than they deserve, or about the right amount given their service?

	More benefits	Fewer benefits	About the right amount	No opinion
12/15/13	3	53	39	5

18. How would you rate the job the Veterans Administration is doing to meet the needs of military veterans? Is the VA doing an excellent, good, only fair or poor job?

	--- Excellent/good ---			--- Only fair/poor ---			No opinion
	NET	Excellent	Good	NET	Only fair	Poor	
12/15/13	38	8	30	58	37	22	4

19. Relative to how it serves previous generations of veterans, do you think the VA puts (too much focus), (not enough focus), or about the right amount of focus on the needs of veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan?

	Too Much	Not Enough	About the right amount	No opinion
12/15/13	1	44	50	5

20. Have you taken advantage of the Post-9/11 GI bill, or not?

	Yes, have	No, have not	No opinion
12/15/13	48	52	*

20a. (Ask if have not taken advantage of the Post 9/11 GI bill) How interested are you in taking advantage of the GI bill: very interested, somewhat interested, not too interested or, not at all interested?

	---- Interested ----			---- Not interested ----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	
12/15/13	73	49	24	24	8	15	3

20/20a. Summary table based on total

	----- Have used GI Bill -----			----- Have not used GI Bill -----			No opinion
	Have used GI Bill	-- Interested --		-Not interested-			
	NET	Very	Smwt	NET	Not too	Not at All	
12/15/13	48	38	26	12	4	8	*

21. Do you think most Americans' respect for the military is genuine, or do you think most Americans are just saying things they think people want to hear?

	Respect is genuine	Just saying what people want to hear	People don't respect military (vol.)	No opinion
12/15/13	53	42	1	4

22. Would you say that overall, you like or dislike talking about your service with casual acquaintances or strangers?

	Like	Dislike	Depends (vol.)	No opinion
12/15/13	52	41	4	2

24. When you see a yellow ribbon honoring military service, does that make you feel good, or does it feel like more of an empty gesture?

	Makes you feel good	Feels like more of an empty gesture	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
12/15/13	70	22	5	3

25. Overall, do you think the military is or is not doing enough to help veterans transition back to civilian life?

	Is doing enough	Is not doing enough	No opinion
12/15/13	46	51	4

26. [Ask if not currently on active duty] After your (active duty) military service, would you say your re-adjustment to civilian life was very easy, somewhat easy, somewhat difficult or very difficult?

	----- Easy -----			----- Difficult -----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	*
12/15/13	49	19	30	50	29	21	*

4/26. Summary table based on total

12/15/13	
23	Active duty
77	Not active duty
38	Easy re-adjustment to civilian life NET
15	Very easy
23	Somewhat easy
39	Difficult re-adjustment to civilian life NET
22	Somewhat difficult
16	Very difficult
0	Unsure about re-adjustment
0	No opinion

27. (Ask if re-adjustment to civilian life was difficult) In a few words, could you describe how the readjustment to civilian life was difficult for you?

12/15/13

26 WORK-RELATED ISSUES (NET)  
5 Adjusting to civilian work/civilian work different than military work  
3 Finding a job that I could translate/apply my military skills to  
4 Job/career redirection/can't do military job in civilian life/start over  
1 Difficulty finding job as a disabled vet  
1 Keeping a job  
9 Finding work/a good job (general)  
2 Other work-related issues mentions  
1 Unable to work due to medical problems/disability

28 CHANGE INTO CIVILIAN LIFESTYLE (NET)  
14 Adapting to a different lifestyle/culture (general/overall)  
4 Lack of structure/civilian life is less structured  
6 Personal mindset change (act normal, not think/act like a soldier)  
2 Developing new routines  
1 Going back to school/being a student  
1 Going from high responsibility/intensity/stress to none in civilian life  
\* Being home more often/all the time/more time on my hands  
2 Other change into civilian lifestyle mentions

25 POOR MILITARY/GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE (NET)  
10 LACK OF BENEFITS (SUBNET)  
4 Little/no job/career assistance/training  
3 Financial issues (didn't receive enough financial support)  
2 Not getting needed medical care/assistance  
3 Other lack of benefits mentions  
6 VA being slow/unresponsive/difficult dealing with VA/fighting for benefits  
6 Not enough information/help reintegrating into society (general/overall)  
3 Not enough/no de-stressing/debriefing/decompressing  
4 Not given any/enough time to adjust  
1 Other poor government/military assistance mentions

19 BEING AROUND OTHERS/CIVILIANS (NET)  
5 Civilians not understanding veterans  
5 Coming home/adjusting to living with/relationship with family/friends  
4 Being around civilians that don't share the same morals/ethics  
4 Being around civilians/dealing with people in general  
3 Being around crowds  
1 Other being around others/civilians mentions

10 HEALTH/MENTAL HEALTH-RELATED ISSUES (NET)  
9 Emotional well-being/mental issues (PTSD, anger, paranoia)  
2 Medical problems/issues  
\* Other health/mental health-related issues mentions

5 LEAVING MILITARY LIFE (NET)  
1 Used to the income/having a regular paycheck/the money/good money  
1 Leaving the camaraderie/there is not enough/no camaraderie when you get out  
1 Missed being around other military people/my military friends (general)  
1 Coming from violence/a war/combat zone into civilian life  
1 Other leaving military life mentions

3 Was a very big change/very difficult experience (general)  
3 Other  
3 No answer  
4 No opinion

28. (Ask if currently on active duty in the military) Thinking ahead to when you decide to leave the military, do you think your re-adjustment to civilian life will be very easy, somewhat easy, somewhat difficult or very difficult?

	----- Easy -----			----- Difficult -----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	opinion
12/15/13	54	20	34	43	29	13	4

4/28. Summary table based on total

12/15/13	
77	Not active duty
23	Active duty
12	Easy re-adjustment to civilian life NET
5	Very easy
8	Somewhat easy
10	Difficult re-adjustment to civilian life NET
7	Somewhat difficult
3	Very difficult
0	Unsure about re-adjustment
0	Don't plan to ever leave military (vol.)
0	No opinion

29. Do you feel you have all the education and skills you need in order to be competitive in the current job market, or not?

	Yes	No	Don't plan to enter job market (vol.)	On permanent disability (vol.)	No opinion
12/15/13	66	33	1	*	*

30. (Ask if not on permanent disability) How well do you think the skills you (learned/are learning) in the military (translate/will translate) to the civilian job market: (are they/will they be) very useful in the civilian job market, somewhat useful, not too useful, or not at all useful?

	----- Useful -----			----- Not useful -----			On permanent	No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	disability (vol)	op.
12/15/13	81	44	37	19	9	10	*	*

31. From what you know or have heard about the civilian job market, do you think employers see military service as (an advantage), (a disadvantage), or neither?

	Advantage	Disadvantage	Neither	No opinion
12/15/13	62	12	24	3

32. Do you think veterans deserve special advantages from employers when applying for jobs, or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion
12/15/13	63	35	2

Compare to: Kaiser Family Foundation national poll of U.S. adults

12/15/13	80	16	4
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Thinking now about national affairs:

33. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
12/15/13	32	18	15	54	15	39	13

Compare to: Washington Post-ABC News national polls among all U.S. adults conducted during military survey field period.

12/15/13	43	23	20	55	14	41	3
11/17/13	42	22	21	55	11	44	3
10/20/13	48	28	20	49	10	39	3
9/15/13	47	25	22	47	11	37	6

34. Please tell me whether the following statement applies to Obama, or not? He is a good commander-in-chief of the military.

	Yes	No	No opinion
12/15/13	42	48	10

Compare to: Washington Post-ABC News national poll of U.S. adults

9/15/13	52	43	5
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35. Thinking back to when George W. Bush was president, was he a good commander-in-chief of the military, or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion
12/15/13	65	28	7

36. Do you support or oppose allowing women in the military to serve in ground units that engage in close combat? Do you feel that way strongly, or somewhat?

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
12/15/13	58	36	21	39	12	27	4

Compare to: Washington Post-Pew Research Center national poll of U.S. adults

1/27/13	66	37	28	26	9	17	8
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38. Do you think allowing women to serve in combat roles will make military effectiveness better, worse, or not make much difference?

	Better	Worse	Not make much difference	No opinion
12/15/13	16	30	50	4

Compare to: Washington Post-Pew Research Center national poll of U.S. adults

1/27/13	29	15	49	6
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39. Do you think the military is or is not doing enough to prevent sexual assault among service members? Do you feel that way strongly, or somewhat?

	---- Is doing enough ----			-- Is not doing enough --			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
12/15/13	54	35	19	41	14	28	4

41. All in all, considering the costs to the United States versus the benefits to the United States, do you think the war in (INSERT 1st), or not? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat? And do you think (INSERT NEXT), or not? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat? (Rotate a-b)

12/15/13 - Summary table

	- Worth fighting-			--- Not worth ---			No
	NET	Strgly	Smwt	NET	Smwt	Strgly	op.
a. Iraq was worth fighting	44	28	16	50	16	34	6
b. Afghanistan has been worth fighting	53	28	25	41	14	27	6

Compare to: Washington Post-ABC News national polls of U.S. adults

	----- Worth fighting -----			--- Not worth fighting ---			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
3/10/13 Iraq	38	19	18	58	15	43	4
12/15/13 Afghanistan	30	16	14	66	15	50	4

42. In Afghanistan and Iraq, the military has been asked to engage in noncombat missions like reconstruction and operations designed to strengthen the country's social, political, and economic institutions, sometimes called 'nation-building.' Do you think these are (appropriate roles) or (inappropriate roles) for the U.S. military?

	Appropriate roles	Inappropriate roles	No opinion
12/15/13	50	45	4

Compare to: 2011 Pew Research Center polls of U.S. adults and military veterans

9/15/11 Adults	45	48	8
9/4/11 Veterans	47	50	4

43. Do you think that violent conflict between Muslims and Christians is inevitable, or that it is possible for them to find common ground?

	Violent conflict is inevitable	It's possible for them to find common ground	No opinion
12/15/13	42	54	4

Compare to: Kaiser Family Foundation national poll of U.S. adults

12/15/13	36	53	10
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44. (Ask if served in war in Iraq) How many times were you deployed in support of the war in Iraq?

	None	Once	Twice	Three or more	No opinion
12/15/13	3	49	29	17	3

45. (Ask if deployed at least once in support of the war in Iraq) Altogether, how many months or years did that add up to?

	<1 year	1 year - <2 years	2 years or more	No opinion	Median
12/15/13	28	42	29	1	12 months

46. (Ask if deployed at least once in support of the war in Iraq) During that time, were you ever physically located in Iraq, off the coast of Iraq or flying missions over Iraq, or not? (ALLOW MULTIPLE RESPONSES)

	----- In Iraq -----				Not in	No
	NET	In country	Off coast	Flying missions	Iraq	opinion
12/15/13	84	63	18	12	15	1

47. (Ask if served in war in Afghanistan) How many times were you deployed in support of the war in Afghanistan?

	None	Once	Twice	Three or more	No opinion
12/15/13	9	53	16	10	12

48. (Ask if deployed at least once in support of the war in Afghanistan) Altogether, how many months or years did that add up to?

	<1 year	1 year - <2 years	2 years or more	No opinion	Median
12/15/13	45	38	16	1	9 months

49. (Ask if deployed at least once in support of the war in Afghanistan) During that time, were you ever physically located in Afghanistan, or flying missions over Afghanistan, or not? (ALLOW MULTIPLE RESPONSES)

	----- In Afghanistan -----			Not in	No
	NET	In country	Flying missions	Afghanistan	opinion
12/15/13	71	60	16	28	1

50. While serving in the (war in Iraq/war in Afghanistan/wars in Iraq and Afghanistan), did you serve in combat arms or combat support?

	Combat arms	Combat support	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
12/15/13	31	57	7	4	1

51. Would you say the average American does or does not appreciate your service in the (Iraq war/Afghanistan war/Iraq and Afghanistan wars)?

	Yes	No	No opinion
12/15/13	71	23	6

52. (If served in Iraq/Afghanistan) Would you say the average (INSERT) does or does not appreciate your service there? (Rotate a-b)

12/15/13 - summary table

	Does appreciate	Does not appreciate	Mixed reaction	No opinion
a. Iraqi citizen	40	44	5	12
b. Afghan citizen	34	48	4	14

54. How often would you say you think about your service in the (Iraq war/Afghan war/Iraq or Afghan wars)? Would you say every day, a few days a week, once a week, a few times a month, or less often than that?

	Every day	A few days a week	Once a week	A few times a month	Less often than that	No opinion
12/15/13	33	20	9	15	22	1

55. Is there anything at all you miss about your time serving in the (Iraq war/Afghanistan war/Iraq and Afghanistan wars), or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion
12/15/13	56	43	2

55a. (Ask if miss something about time serving in Iraq/Afghanistan wars) Can you say a little bit about what you miss? (IF NECESSARY: What you miss about your time serving in the [Iraq war/Afghanistan war /Iraq and Afghanistan wars]?)

12/15/13

70 PEOPLE (NET)  
63 FELLOW SOLDIERS (SUBNET)  
43 Camaraderie/brotherhood/soldier bonds  
14 The people I worked with/fellow soldiers (general)  
10 The friends I made  
1 Soldiers who died  
1 Other fellow soldiers mentions  
6 Iraqi/Afghanistan people (getting to know, making friends with)  
3 The people (nonspecific)  
1 Other people mentions

18 MY JOB/WORK ENVIRONMENT (NET)  
7 Other my job/work environment mentions  
4 My compensation (the paycheck/money/not paying taxes)  
5 My job/the work/enjoyed doing my job (responsibilities, etc.)  
2 The country I was deployed to  
2 The food  
2 Daily routine/miss the daily routine  
\* Was trained/the training I received

16 MISSIONS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS (NET)  
3 The mission  
3 Feeling of purpose  
3 Helping other people (saving/bettering lives)  
2 Making a difference  
2 Helping another nation/country (protecting, building, etc.)  
1 Sense of accomplishment  
1 Serving/serving my country  
3 Other missions/accomplishments mentions

14 OPERATIONS (NET)  
3 Teamwork/group of people working together for common goal  
4 Traveling/the places I got to see/experiencing different people and customs  
4 Organized structure/clear and simple structure/everything spelled out  
2 The missions/focus on a mission/an objective to achieve  
3 Other operations mentions

8 ACTION/EXCITEMENT (NET)  
4 Combat  
4 Action/excitement/adrenaline rush  
\* Other action/excitement mentions



- 1 Miss everything/the overall experience (general)
- 1 Just like being in the military/that way of life
- 2 Other
- 3 No opinion

56. Now I am going to read to you things that some service members have experienced and others have not. For each, tell me how often, if at all, you personally have experienced the following as a result of your military service. Here's the first/next: (INSERT ITEM). Is this something you have experienced often, sometimes, rarely or not at all as a result of your military service? (Randomize items)

12/15/13 - summary table

	--Often/Sometimes--			-- Rarely/Not at all --			NA (vol)	No op.
	NET	Often	Smtimes	NET	Rarely	Not at all		
a. Relationship problems with your spouse or partner	45	21	24	52	12	40	2	1
b. Outbursts of anger	41	15	25	59	22	37	0	1
c. Feeling disconnected from civilian life	55	27	28	44	14	30	0	1
d. Feeling the average American didn't understand your experience	69	39	30	29	10	19	0	2
e. Relationship problems with your children	19	7	12	66	11	55	15	1

57. Not asking any details, but just generally, for each of the following, would you say you did anything in the (Iraq war/Afghanistan war/Iraq and Afghanistan wars) that made you [INSERT ITEM], or not? Would you say you felt that way often, sometimes, or rarely?

12/15/13 - summary table

	----- Yes -----					No opinion	
	NET	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	No		
a. feel proud	87	51	29	7	12	1	
b. feel guilty	25	6	10	9	74	1	
c. question the mission	35	10	18	7	64	1	

58. Thinking about your physical health now compared to before your involvement in the (Iraq war/Afghanistan war/Iraq and Afghanistan wars), would you say your physical health now is better, worse, or about the same?

	Better	Worse	About the same	No opinion
12/15/13	12	43	45	*

59. Were you ever seriously injured while performing your duties in the (Iraq war/Afghanistan war/Iraq and Afghanistan wars), or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion
12/15/13	18	82	*

59a. (Ask if seriously injured while performing their duties in the Iraq/ Afghanistan wars) Were any of those injuries combat - related, or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion
12/15/13	70	29	1

59/59a Summary table based on total

12/15/13	18	Seriously injured while performing duties in the Iraq/Afghanistan wars (NET)
	13	Injuries were combat related
	5	Injuries were not combat related
	82	Not seriously injured while performing duties in the Iraq/Afghanistan wars
	*	No Opinion

60. Comparing your mental and emotional health now to before your involvement in the (Iraq war/Afghanistan war/Iraq and Afghanistan wars), would you say it is better now, worse now, or about the same?

	Better now	Worse now	About the same	No opinion
12/15/13	12	31	56	*

61. Overall, how well would you say your (INSERT) health needs are being met today? Very well, somewhat well, not too well or not at all well? (Rotate a-b)

12/15/13 - summary table

	NET	Well	Smwt	NET	Not too	Not at all	No opin.
a. Physical	85	41	44	15	8	7	*
b. Mental or emotional	86	43	43	13	6	7	2

Compare to: Kaiser Family Foundation national poll of U.S. adults

12/15/13 - summary table

a. Physical	88	56	32	10	7	2	2
b. Mental or emotional	87	61	26	9	6	3	4

65. Do you personally know a service member or veteran from the Iraq or Afghanistan wars who has attempted or committed suicide, or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion
12/15/13	51	48	1

66. Do you personally know a service member or veteran from the Iraq or Afghanistan wars who has become homeless, or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion
12/15/13	20	79	1

68. In the past year, have you and your family experienced any of the following things, or not? [INSERT FIRST ITEM]. In the past year, have you and your family [INSERT OTHER ITEMS], or not? (Randomize items)

12/15/13 - summary table

	Yes	No	No opinion
a. Had trouble getting medical care	15	85	*
b. Had problems paying medical bills	16	84	*
c. Had problems paying your rent or mortgage	23	77	*
d. Increased your credit card debt	34	65	1
e. Taken on an extra job or worked extra hours because you needed the money	40	60	*

Compare to: Kaiser Family Foundation national poll of U.S. adults

12/15/13 - summary table

	Yes	No	No opinion
a. Had trouble getting medical care	16	84	*
b. Had problems paying medical bills	28	72	*
c. Had problems paying your rent or mortgage	20	80	*
d. Increased your credit card debt	21	78	1
e. Taken on an extra job or worked extra hours because you needed the money	39	60	1

69. Which of the following, if any, do you currently use for health care coverage? You can select as many as apply. Do you use...? (READ LIST. ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES)

12/15/13

49	The military's health care plan (including TRICARE, CHAMPUS)
37	Private health insurance
27	VA health care
7	Medicaid or Medicare
2	Employer provided healthcare
2	Something else
6	Don't you currently have health insurance or a health care plan
1	No opinion

71. Has the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or Department of Defense determined that you have a service-connected disability; that is, a health condition or impairment caused or made worse by any of your military service?

	Yes	No	Have applied, but not determined (vol.)	No opinion
12/15/13	34	61	4	1

73. At the time of your last deployment to serve in the (Iraq war/Afghanistan war/Iraq or Afghanistan wars) (were/Are) you a commissioned officer, a non-commissioned officer, a warrant officer, or an enlisted person?

	Commissioned officer	Non-commissioned officer	Warrant officer	Enlisted person	No opinion
12/15/13	15	39	1	45	1

75. What year did you enter the service?  
 76. (Ask if no longer in the military) What year did you detach or retire from the military?

4/76. Summary table based on total

12/15/13

23 Currently on active duty in the military  
 8 Currently serving in the National Guard  
 10 Currently serving in the Reserves  
 59 No longer in the military  
 16 Detached before 2005  
 13 Detached 2006-2008  
 16 Detached 2009-2011  
 13 Detached 2012-2013  
 1 No opinion

Marital status

12/15/13

65 Married/Living with partner NET  
 57 Married  
 8 Living with partner  
 35 Not married NET  
 18 Single, never married  
 2 Separated  
 1 Widowed  
 14 Divorced  
 \* No opinion

Employment status

12/15/13

83 Employed NET  
 72 Full-time  
 11 Part-time  
 17 Not employed NET  
 5 Retired  
 \* Homemaker  
 5 Student  
 2 Temporarily unemployed  
 3 Disabled/handicapped (vol.)  
 \* Other (vol.)  
 \* No opinion

77. (Ask if currently NOT on active duty and employed) Are you employed by a company that contracts with the U.S. military, or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion
12/15/13	18	78	4

4/77. Summary table based on total

12/15/13

39 Currently on active duty in the military  
 61 Not currently on active duty in the military and employed  
 11 Employed by a company that contracts with the U.S. military  
 47 Not employed by a company that contracts with the U.S. military  
 17 Not employed  
 \* No opinion

78. Are you currently a member of the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America organization, sometimes known as IAVA, or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion
12/15/13	10	88	2

81. Did either of your parents or any of your grandparents serve in the military, or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion
12/15/13	71	28	*

Compare to: Kaiser Family Foundation national poll of U.S. adults

12/15/13	62	36	2
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81a. (Ask if parents/grandparents served in the military) Who served? (ENTER ALL THAT APPLY)

	Mother	Father	Grandparent(s)	No opinion
12/15/13	6	60	68	*

81/81a. Combo Table

12/15/13

71	Parents/grandparents served in the military NET
4	Mother served
43	Father served
48	Grandparents served
28	Parents/grandparents did not serve in military
*	No opinion

82. (Ask if married or living with partner) Has your (spouse/partner), or any members of your (spouse's/partner's) immediate family, ever served in the military, or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion
12/15/13	49	51	*

83. How many of your close friends have served in the military - would you say all of them, most of them, some of them or hardly any of them have served in the military?

	---- All/most----			----- Some/Hardly any/None -----				
	NET	All	Most	NET	Some	Hardly any	None (vol.)	No opinion
12/15/13	38	8	30	61	37	21	3	1

Compare to: Kaiser Family Foundation national poll of U.S. adults

12/15/13	17	4	13	82	50	21	11	1
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Note: The question wording for the Kaiser Family Foundation poll read, "nearly all of them" rather than "all of them".

Gender:

	Male	Female
12/15/13	88	12

Age:

	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
12/15/13	35	53	9	2

Education:

	High school or less	Some college	College graduate	Post- grad
12/15/13	31	35	23	12

Income:

	Less than \$50K	\$50K-\$100K	\$100K+	No opinion
12/15/13	43	33	18	5

Race:

	White, Non-Hisp.	Black, Non-Hisp.	Hispanic	Asian	Other	No opinion
12/15/13	64	13	16	1	4	1

80. How important is religion in your everyday life: The most important thing in your life; extremely important, but not the most important thing, very important, somewhat important, or not important at all?

	NET	Most	Extremely	Very	NET	Somewhat	Not	No opinion
12/15/13	48	14	15	18	52	26	25	1

Party ID: Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat or an independent?

	Democrat	Republican	Independent	Other (vol.)	No opinion
12/15/13	17	27	47	4	5

Compare to: Washington Post-ABC News polls of U.S. adults

12/15/13	30	24	40	4	2
11/17/13	31	24	37	6	2
10/20/13	30	24	40	4	3
9/15/13	34	23	34	4	4

LEAN. (Ask if Independent, don't know, refused) Do you lean more toward the (Democratic) or (Republican) Party?

	Democrat	Republican	Neither	No opinion
12/15/13	28	33	33	6

LEANED PARTY TABLE

	Dem/lean Dem	Rep/lean Rep	Independent	Other	No opinion
12/15/13	33	45	15	3	4

Compare to: Washington Post-ABC News polls of U.S. adults

12/15/13	47	45	6	1	1
11/17/13	47	42	8	2	0
10/20/13	51	39	8	1	2
9/15/13	51	39	8	1	1

Ideology: Generally speaking, would you describe your political views as very conservative, somewhat conservative, moderate, somewhat liberal or very liberal?

	---- Conservative ---				----- Liberal -----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	Moderate	NET	Somewhat	Very	opinion
12/15/13	44	14	30	29	20	14	5	7

Compare to: Washington Post-ABC News polls of U.S. adults

12/15/13	38	15	23	38	19	14	5	5
11/17/13	32	13	19	44	19	13	6	2
10/20/13	36	14	22	39	24	15	9	3
9/15/13	34	13	21	37	25	17	8	4

REGION:

	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
12/15/13	10	18	49	23

METRO STATUS:

	Urban	Suburban	Rural
12/15/13	37	42	17

The Washington Post



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Kaiser Family Foundation website at [www.kff.org](http://www.kff.org).

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