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### **Service Men and Women Upbeat on Bush, War In Iraq, Economy and Intend To Vote, Annenberg Data Show**

America's military service men and women and their families are convinced that the country is going in the right direction, like George W. Bush much more than the civilian population does, support the war in Iraq more strongly and are more positive about the economy, the University of Pennsylvania's National Annenberg Election Survey shows.

From September 22 through October 5, Annenberg polled 655 adults who have either served on active duty between February and October or who were family members of those who served but were not available to be interviewed. Their answers were compared to the responses of 2,436 adults polled nationally from September 27 through October 3.

The survey did not ask the voting preference of the respondents because a 1948 statute prohibits polling members of the armed services about whom they intend to vote for.

The Pentagon is making intense efforts to get troops on active duty to vote this year, and 94 percent of the military sample said they intended to vote in the presidential election, compared to 85 percent of the civilian population. Eighty-nine percent of the military sample said they were registered, compared to 82 percent of the general population. Most of the polling was conducted before registration deadlines had passed, Seventy-seven percent of the military sample said they had learned enough about the candidates and the issues to cast an informed vote, compared to 65 percent of the general population.

But at the same time, reflecting the non-political tradition of the American military, 55 percent said it would be inappropriate to ask someone of equal rank to vote for a Presidential candidate. Junior enlisted personnel disagreed; 52 percent said it would be appropriate.

Whether they urge anyone to vote for him or not, a variety of measures showed that they preferred Bush to John Kerry. Sixty-nine percent had a favorable opinion of Bush and 23 percent an unfavorable opinion. But only 29 percent had a favorable opinion of Kerry, while 54 percent were unfavorable. (Bush and Kerry both had small favorable balances in the general population.)

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On particular traits, the military sample gave Bush an advantage on caring, leadership, sharing their values, knowledge, consistency and optimism. They did consider Bush more stubborn.

When asked whom they would trust more to handle the responsibility of commander-in-chief, 69 percent of the military sample preferred Bush to 24 percent for Kerry. The civilian group also preferred Bush, but by only a 50 to 41 percent majority.

When asked if the country was “going in the right direction” or was “seriously off on the wrong track,” 64 percent of the military sample said “right track” and 31 percent said “wrong direction.” In the general population a majority said “wrong track”; 55 percent took that view compared to 37 percent who said “right direction.”

On all four of these measures, there were almost no differences between regular military respondents and those who served in the guard and reserves. Family members were less supportive of Bush than their active duty relatives. Families of guard and reserve members were the least supportive, but even in that last group narrow majorities took his side. There was little difference based on the rank of service members, although commissioned officers and NCOs and their families were slightly more supportive than junior enlisted members and their families.

When it came to the war in Iraq, 64 percent of the military sample said the situation had been worth going to war over, while 32 percent said it had not. Of those who served in Iraq, Afghanistan or nearby, a smaller share, only 55 percent, said the war had been worth it; 40 percent said it had not. In the general population, 45 percent said the war had been worth it and 51 percent said it had not.

The military sample was also asked what was the most important reason why the United States had gone to war in Iraq. They were offered six choices, and 29 percent said the most important reason was “removing Saddam Hussein from power.” Twenty-three percent said “because Iraq was helping terrorists.” Fifteen percent said because “Iraq had weapons of mass destruction.” Thirteen percent said “to bring stability to the Middle East.” Eleven percent said “to gain control of Iraqi oil.” Six percent said “to bring democracy to Iraq.”

The military sample also felt, narrowly, that the war in Iraq had reduced the risk of terrorist attacks in the United States; 47 percent said that while 42 percent said the war had raised the risk of terrorism. While service members themselves were nine percentage points more likely to think the risk had been reduced than increased, their family members were evenly divided. But in the general population, 53 percent said the war had raised the risk of terrorism here, while 34 percent said the risk had been reduced.

On the economy, 45 percent of the military sample called the national economy excellent or good, while 55 percent said it was fair or poor. In the general population only 25 percent said excellent or good and 74 percent said fair or poor. The military sample was also more likely than the general population to rate their own economic circumstances excellent or good. And sixty percent of them said they approved of how Bush was handling the economy, compared to 42 percent of the general population.

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A partial explanation for the pro-Bush tilt of the military sample was that they were considerably more Republican than the general population. Forty-three percent called themselves Republican, 19 percent called themselves Democrats and 28 percent said they were independents. While the party identification of respondents in national polls moves around a bit from week to week, this was strikingly more Republican than the general population in the September 27-October 3 sample. There, 28 percent called themselves Republican, 34 percent Democratic and 27 percent independent.

But this Republican partisanship explained only some but not all of the differences, because on many questions the Republican service members were more pro-Bush than their civilian fellow partisans. Independents in the military sample, when compared to civilians, were also more pro-Bush.

For example, 94 percent of Republicans in the military sample approved of Bush's handling of his job as president, compared to 88 percent of civilian Republicans. Among Democrats, 23 percent of those in the military sample approved, while 20 percent in the general population did. Among independents, 59 percent of those in the military sample approved while just 48 percent of those in the general population did.

The military sample was split on whether Bush had a clear plan for a solution in Iraq, with 47 percent saying he had a plan and 48 percent saying he lacked a plan. But he rated better with them than with the general population, where 38 percent said he had a plan and 56 percent said he did not.

While the military sample was more likely than the general public to credit Bush with having an Iraq plan, it was less likely than the public to believe Kerry had one. Eighteen percent of the military sample said Kerry had a clear Iraq plan, while 72 percent said he did not have one. In the general public, 34 percent said Kerry had a plan and 54 percent said he did not.

The military sample also felt that being a veteran mattered as a qualification for the presidency. Forty percent said it mattered "a great deal," and most of them also said having been in combat was an added advantage.

The military sample also generally agreed with the general population that the United States had become more unpopular in the world since Bush took office. Forty-two percent of the military sample said the United States was regarded worse now, while 19 percent said it was now better regarded. In the general population, 52 percent said "worse" and 16 percent said "better."

On personal traits, the military sample gave Bush the advantage on several points where the general public sees Kerry better. Fifty-nine percent of the military respondents said the term "cares about people like me" fit Bush better, while 30 percent said Kerry. In the general public, 46 percent preferred Kerry and 39 percent Bush.

Another consistent Kerry advantage in the general public, being considered "knowledgeable," also went to Bush among the military. Fifty percent said the term fit Bush better, while 33 percent said Kerry. In the general public, 45 percent preferred Kerry while 38 percent chose Bush.

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One consistent Bush disadvantage with the general public, being considered “reckless,” turned against Kerry in the military. Forty-seven percent of the military sample said the term fit Kerry better, while 37 percent chose Bush. In the general public, 46 percent said the term fit Bush better, while 30 percent chose Kerry.

The military sample also held Kerry’s anti-Vietnam war activities against him more deeply than did the general public. Seventy-six percent of the military sample said they had seen, heard or read about those statements and half of that group said they strongly disapproved. In the general public, 52 percent said they know of those statements, and a third of them strongly disapproved.

The military also gave a positive balance of opinion to Vice President Dick Cheney while the general public was negative. Fifty-four percent of the military sample had a favorable opinion of Cheney, while 28 percent had an unfavorable view. In the general public, 34 percent were favorable and 41 percent unfavorable.

Two members of Bush’s cabinet also drew positive balances from the military sample. (The general population was not asked about them.) Fifty-three percent said they had a favorable opinion of Donald H. Rumsfeld, secretary of defense, while 24 percent said they had an unfavorable view.

But the strongest rating of all went to Colin Powell, secretary of state. Eighty percent of the military sample had a favorable opinion of him. Only 7 percent had an unfavorable view.

The National Annenberg Election Survey is a project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania ([www.AnnenbergPublicPolicyCenter.org](http://www.AnnenbergPublicPolicyCenter.org)). Dr. Kathleen Hall Jamieson is the director of the survey. Ken Winneg is the managing director of the survey. Adam Clymer is the political director of the survey.

Another major election project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center is [FactCheck.org](http://FactCheck.org), a project that tries to hold politicians accountable by exposing false or misleading campaign statements. It is available online at [www.FactCheck.Org](http://www.FactCheck.Org).

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**Table A**

%	Military Sample	General Public 9/27-10/3
Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President?		
Approve	67%	49%
Disapprove	29%	49%
Please tell me if your opinion of George W. Bush is favorable or unfavorable.		
Favorable	69%	49%
Unfavorable	23%	41%
Please tell me if your opinion of John Kerry is favorable or unfavorable.		
Favorable	29%	44%
Unfavorable	54%	37%
Do you feel things in this country are generally going in the right direction, or do you think things are seriously off on the wrong track?		
Right direction	64%	37%
Wrong track	31%	55%
Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the nation's economy?		
Approve	60%	42%
Disapprove	36%	55%
Now I'd like to talk to you about the state of the economy. How would you rate economic conditions in this country today?		
Excellent or good	45%	25%
Fair or poor	55%	75%
How would you rate your own personal economic situation today?		
excellent or good	61%	48%
Fair or poor	39%	52%
All in all, do you think the situation in Iraq was worth going to war over, or not?		
Yes, worth it	64%	45%
No, not worth it	32%	51%
Has the war in Iraq reduced the risk of terrorism against the United States or increased the risk of terrorism against the United States?		
Reduced the risk of terrorism	47%	34%
Increased the risk of terrorism	42%	53%
Made no difference	9%	8%
Do you think George W. Bush has a clear plan for bringing the situation in Iraq to a successful conclusion, or don't you think so?		
Has a clear plan	47%	38%
Does not have a clear plan	48%	56%
Do you think John Kerry has a clear plan for bringing the situation in Iraq to a successful conclusion, or don't you think so?		
Has a clear plan	18%	34%
Does not have a clear plan	72%	54%
As a result of the George W. Bush presidency, in general, how well regarded is the United States by countries around the world?		
Better than before he came into office	19%	16%
Worse than before he came into office	42%	52%
No different than before he came into office	35%	28%
Who do you trust more to handle the responsibilities of commander in chief of the military: George W. Bush or John Kerry?		
George W. Bush	69%	50%
John Kerry	24%	41%

%	Military Sample	General Public 9/27-10/3
Please tell me if your opinion of Dick Cheney is favorable or unfavorable.		
Favorable	54%	35%
Unfavorable	28%	40%
Please tell me if your opinion of John Edwards is favorable or unfavorable.		
Favorable	30%	37%
Unfavorable	37%	28%
Please tell me if your opinion of Ralph Nader is favorable or unfavorable.		
Favorable	12%	19%
Unfavorable	45%	37%
<b>Comparison of Bush and Kerry on various traits</b>		
Cares about people like me		
Bush higher	59%	39%
Kerry higher	30%	46%
Equal	10%	11%
Strong leader		
Bush higher	72%	46%
Kerry higher	20%	40%
Equal	6%	10%
Shares my values		
Bush higher	64%	44%
Kerry higher	28%	44%
Equal	7%	8%
Knowledgeable		
Bush higher	50%	38%
Kerry higher	33%	45%
Equal	14%	13%
Reckless		
Bush higher	37%	46%
Kerry higher	47%	30%
Equal	12%	16%
Says one thing, does another		
Bush higher	22%	34%
Kerry higher	65%	45%
Equal	9%	14%
Optimistic		
Bush higher	59%	42%
Kerry higher	24%	35%
Equal	14%	17%
Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as:		
Republican	43%	30%
Democrat	19%	33%
Independent	28%	28%
Are you currently registered to vote in your precinct or election district?		
Yes	89%	82%
No	11%	18%

**Table B**

%	Regulars and Guard/ Reserve members themselves	All Family Members	Regulars and their families	Guard and Reserves and their families
Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President?				
Approve	74%	59%	67%	68%
Disapprove	22%	38%	28%	31%
Please tell me if your opinion of George W. Bush is favorable or unfavorable.				
Favorable	77%	60%	69%	70%
Unfavorable	17%	31%	23%	23%
Please tell me if your opinion of John Kerry is favorable or unfavorable.				
Favorable	26%	32%	28%	29%
Unfavorable	57%	50%	54%	53%
Do you feel things in this country are generally going in the right direction, or do you think things are seriously off on the wrong track?				
Right direction	69%	56%	63%	65%
Wrong track	24%	39%	30%	31%
Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the nation's economy?				
Approve	63%	55%	60%	60%
Disapprove	31%	41%	35%	36%
Now I'd like to talk to you about the state of the economy. How would you rate economic conditions in this country today?				
Excellent or good	49%	39%	44%	46%
Fair or poor	50%	61%	55%	54%
How would you rate your own personal economic situation today?				
Excellent or good	68%	53%	62%	61%
Fair or poor	32%	47%	38%	39%
All in all, do you think the situation in Iraq was worth going to war over, or not?				
Yes, worth it	69%	57%	63%	65%
No, not worth it	27%	38%	32%	31%
Suppose someone in the military felt strongly about a candidate for president, do you think it would be appropriate for him or her to urge someone of equal rank to vote for that candidate, or wouldn't it be appropriate?				
Appropriate	35%	46%	40%	41%
Not Appropriate	61%	47%	56%	55%
Has the war in Iraq reduced the risk of terrorism against the United States or increased the risk of terrorism against the United States?				
Reduced the risk of terrorism	49%	44%	46%	48%
Increased the risk of terrorism	40%	44%	41%	42%
Do you think George W. Bush has a clear plan for bringing the situation in Iraq to a successful conclusion, or don't you think so?				
Has a clear plan	50%	42%	47%	47%
Does not have a clear plan	44%	52%	48%	47%
Do you think John Kerry has a clear plan for bringing the situation in Iraq to a successful conclusion, or don't you think so?				
Has a clear plan	16%	22%	17%	20%
Does not have a clear plan	74%	68%	73%	70%
Who do you think should be held accountable for the abuses of prisoners that happened in Abu Ghraib. For each group choice whether or not you think they should be punished:				
<b>The soldiers who abused the prisoners</b>				
Yes, should be punished	86%	73%	79%	82%
No, should not be punished	9%	25%	17%	15%

%	Regulars and Guard/ Reserve members themselves	All Family Members	Regulars and their families	Guard and Reserves and their families
<b>The officers with immediate authority over those soldiers</b>				
Yes, should be punished	83%	74%	77%	82%
No, should not be punished	12%	21%	17%	15%
<b>Higher level commanders in Iraq</b>				
Yes, should be punished	47%	53%	52%	47%
No, should not be punished	46%	38%	40%	45%
<b>Civilians who set policy in the Pentagon</b>				
Yes, should be punished	27%	33%	28%	31%
No, should not be punished	66%	57%	62%	63%
As a result of the George W. Bush presidency, in general, how well regarded is the United States by countries around the world :				
<b>Better than before he came into office</b>	21%	17%	19%	20%
<b>Worse than before he came into office</b>	39%	47%	42%	42%
<b>No different than before he came into office</b>	38%	31%	34%	36%
Who do you trust more to handle the responsibilities of commander in chief of the military: George W. Bush or John Kerry?				
<b>George W. Bush</b>	75%	62%	68%	71%
<b>John Kerry</b>	16%	33%	24%	23%
Please tell me if your opinion of Dick Cheney is favorable or unfavorable.				
<b>Favorable</b>	60%	47%	52%	57%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	22%	35%	28%	28%
Please tell me if your opinion of John Edwards is favorable or unfavorable.				
<b>Favorable</b>	30%	30%	29%	32%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	38%	37%	36%	39%
Please tell me if your opinion of Ralph Nader is favorable or unfavorable.				
<b>Favorable</b>	12%	12%	10%	14%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	47%	43%	44%	47%
Please tell me if your opinion of John McCain is favorable or unfavorable.				
<b>Favorable</b>	66%	44%	55%	59%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	8%	19%	12%	14%
Please tell me if your opinion of Donald Rumsfeld is favorable or unfavorable.				
<b>Favorable</b>	62%	42%	52%	56%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	20%	29%	23%	24%
Please tell me if your opinion of Colin Powell is favorable or unfavorable.				
<b>Favorable</b>	86%	71%	81%	80%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	4%	11%	6%	8%



%	Regulars and Guard/ Reserve members themselves	All Family Members	Regulars and their families	Guard and Reserves and their families
Comparison of Bush and Kerry on various traits				
Cares about people like me				
Bush higher	64%	52%	60%	58%
Kerry higher	25%	35%	29%	29%
Equal	9%	10%	8%	12%
Strong leader				
Bush higher	79%	64%	73%	72%
Kerry higher	17%	24%	19%	20%
Equal	2%	10%	6%	6%
Shares my values				
Bush higher	69%	56%	64%	64%
Kerry higher	22%	35%	26%	30%
Equal	6%	8%	7%	5%
Knowledgeable				
Bush higher	50%	49%	50%	49%
Kerry higher	32%	35%	33%	33%
Equal	16%	12%	14%	16%
Reckless				
Bush higher	36%	38%	36%	38%
Kerry higher	49%	46%	47%	47%
Equal	11%	13%	12%	11%
Says one thing, does another				
Bush higher	17%	29%	23%	22%
Kerry higher	73%	54%	63%	68%
Equal	8%	11%	9%	9%
Optimistic				
Bush higher	62%	54%	60%	58%
Kerry higher	23%	26%	23%	26%
Equal	13%	16%	14%	14%
Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as:				
Republican	47%	38%	42%	44%
Democrat	15%	24%	21%	16%
Independent	26%	30%	27%	29%
Are you currently registered to vote in your precinct or election district?				
Yes	87%	93%	87%	92%
No	13%	7%	13%	8%

**Table C**

%	Commissioned officers and families	Non-commissioned officers and families	Junior enlisted personnel and families	Military who served in Iraq or theater and families
Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President?				
Approve	72%	69%	63%	60%
Disapprove	27%	26%	33%	37%
Please tell me if your opinion of George W. Bush is favorable or unfavorable.				
Favorable	74%	71%	66%	60%
Unfavorable	20%	21%	28%	31%
Please tell me if your opinion of John Kerry is favorable or unfavorable.				
Favorable	25%	31%	31%	33%
Unfavorable	57%	54%	53%	49%
Do you feel things in this country are generally going in the right direction, or do you think things are seriously off on the wrong track?				
Right direction	69%	67%	57%	58%
Wrong track	25%	29%	35%	38%
Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the nation's economy?				
Approve	65%	61%	57%	54%
Disapprove	30%	34%	40%	40%
Now I'd like to talk to you about the state of the economy. How would you rate economic conditions in this country today?				
Excellent or good	55%	49%	34%	40%
Fair or poor	45%	50%	65%	59%
How would you rate your own personal economic situation today?				
Excellent or good	82%	63%	46%	60%
Fair or poor	18%	36%	54%	39%
All in all, do you think the situation in Iraq was worth going to war over, or not?				
Yes, worth it	66%	64%	62%	55%
No, not worth it	30%	30%	34%	40%
Suppose someone in the military felt strongly about a candidate for president, do you think it would be appropriate for him or her to urge someone of equal rank to vote for that candidate, or wouldn't it be appropriate?				
Appropriate	39%	34%	53%	40%
Not Appropriate	58%	62%	44%	55%
Has the war in Iraq reduced the risk of terrorism against the United States or increased the risk of terrorism against the United States?				
Reduced the risk of terrorism	47%	50%	46%	46%
Increased the risk of terrorism	37%	41%	45%	43%
Do you think George W. Bush has a clear plan for bringing the situation in Iraq to a successful conclusion, or don't you think so?				
Has a clear plan	41%	51%	47%	41%
Does not have a clear plan	55%	44%	47%	54%
Do you think John Kerry has a clear plan for bringing the situation in Iraq to a successful conclusion, or don't you think so?				
Has a clear plan	16%	19%	20%	21%
Does not have a clear plan	76%	73%	68%	71%
Who do you think should be held accountable for the abuses of prisoners that happened in Abu Ghraib. For each group say whether or not you think they should be punished?				
The soldiers who abused the prisoners				
Yes, should be punished	84%	83%	74%	74%
No, should not be punished	11%	14%	23%	23%

%	Commissioned officers and families	Non-commissioned officers and families	Junior enlisted personnel and families	Military who served in Iraq or theater and families
The officers with immediate authority over those soldiers				
Yes, should be punished	83%	80%	77%	76%
No, should not be punished	11%	15%	21%	19%
Higher level commanders in Iraq				
Yes, should be punished	50%	46%	53%	46%
No, should not be punished	39%	48%	40%	46%
Civilians who set policy in the Pentagon				
Yes, should be punished	29%	31%	29%	27%
No, should not be punished	61%	62%	63%	63%
As a result of the George W. Bush presidency, in general, how well regarded is the United States by countries around the world :				
Better than before he came into office	16%	22%	20%	18%
Worse than before he came into office	42%	36%	47%	47%
No different than before he came into office	38%	37%	30%	31%
Who do you trust more to handle the responsibilities of commander in chief of the military: George W. Bush or John Kerry?				
George W. Bush	73%	70%	67%	62%
John Kerry	20%	22%	26%	29%
Please tell me if your opinion of Dick Cheney is favorable or unfavorable.				
Favorable	58%	57%	51%	49%
Unfavorable	27%	26%	31%	32%
Please tell me if your opinion of John Edwards is favorable or unfavorable.				
Favorable	29%	32%	32%	32%
Unfavorable	45%	36%	36%	37%
Please tell me if your opinion of Ralph Nader is favorable or unfavorable.				
Favorable	9%	12%	15%	11%
Unfavorable	57%	44%	42%	47%
Please tell me if your opinion of John McCain is favorable or unfavorable.				
Favorable	70%	61%	46%	50%
Unfavorable	8%	13%	15%	16%
Please tell me if your opinion of Donald Rumsfeld is favorable or unfavorable.				
Favorable	58%	58%	46%	51%
Unfavorable	25%	23%	25%	29%
Please tell me if your opinion of Colin Powell is favorable or unfavorable.				
Favorable	89%	84%	72%	77%
Unfavorable	5%	6%	10%	9%
Comparison of Bush and Kerry on various traits				
Cares about people like me				
Bush higher	63%	62%	54%	55%
Kerry higher	25%	29%	34%	34%
Equal	11%	6%	10%	9%
Strong leader				
Bush higher	75%	75%	68%	69%
Kerry higher	17%	19%	24%	24%
Equal	6%	5%	5%	5%

%	Commissioned officers and families	Non-commissioned officers and families	Junior enlisted personnel and families	Military who served in Iraq or theater and families
Shares my values				
Bush higher	70%	66%	57%	57%
Kerry higher	23%	27%	33%	32%
Equal	7%	6%	7%	9%
Knowledgeable				
Bush higher	46%	53%	50%	49%
Kerry higher	37%	31%	32%	34%
Equal	16%	14%	14%	15%
Reckless				
Bush higher	37%	38%	35%	48%
Kerry higher	49%	44%	48%	40%
Equal	11%	13%	12%	10%
Says one thing, does another				
Bush higher	17%	22%	24%	24%
Kerry higher	73%	65%	60%	63%
Equal	8%	10%	10%	9%
Optimistic				
Bush higher	66%	61%	51%	54%
Kerry higher	18%	25%	28%	26%
Equal	15%	12%	16%	17%
Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as:				
Republican	47%	42%	41%	35%
Democrat	15%	17%	24%	25%
Independent	31%	31%	23%	30%
Are you currently registered to vote in your precinct or election district?				
Yes	93%	87%	90%	88%
No	6%	13%	9%	12%

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## Survey Methodology

The National Annenberg Election Survey (NAES) is a survey conducted each presidential election by the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania.

The 2004 National Annenberg Election Survey is based on telephone interviews which began October 7, 2003 and will continue past Election Day.

The sample of telephone exchanges called was randomly selected by a computer from a complete list of thousands of active residential exchanges across the country. Within each exchange, random digits were added to form a complete telephone number, thus permitting access to both listed and unlisted numbers. Within each household, one adult was designated by a random procedure to be the respondent for the survey. The interviewing is conducted by Schulman, Ronca, Bucuvalas, Inc.

This report is based on interviews among active military members, including those in the regular military, National Guard and Reserves, as well as interviews among family members in military households. From September 22, 2004 through October 5, 2004, 655 military or their family members were interviewed. Telephone sample for this survey was derived from households that completed the National Annenberg Election Rolling Cross Section Survey (NAES04) from February 13, 2004 through September 29, 2004. A NAES04 household qualified for the military study if it was determined through survey questioning that a household member was currently serving in the military at the time. From this sample of military households, interviews were completed with 172 active regular military, 199 Guard/Reserve members, 200 regular military family members 79 Guard/Reserve family members and 5 military family members, unspecified. Only one military interview was completed per household. The margin of error for the entire completed military sample is plus or minus 4 percentage points.

The military data was compared with data from a national sample 2,436 adults interviewed from September 27 through October 3, 2004. In theory, in 19 out of 20 cases, results for all adults will differ by no more than 2 percentage points, up or down, from what would have been obtained by interviewing all American adults. For smaller subgroups, the margin of sampling error would be higher, and some questions were not asked of all respondents, which would also lead to a higher potential sampling error.

In addition to sampling error, the practical difficulties of conducting any survey of public opinion may introduce other sources of error into the poll. Variations in the wording and order of questions, for example, may lead to somewhat different results.

The results from the non-military household sample have been weighted to take account of household size and number of telephone lines into the residence and to adjust for variation in the sample relating to geographic region, sex, race, age and education. The military sample data have not been weighted.

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