



CBS NEWS POLL  
For release: January 6, 2010  
6:30 PM EST

**WHERE AMERICA STANDS: CONDITION OF THE U.S. MILITARY**  
**December 17 - 22, 2009**

The public gives the U.S. military high marks overall, with few awarding it a low or failing grade. However, most also express concerns that the military is spread too thin, and don't think the government is doing enough for veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Americans give the U.S. military high grades: 67% give the country a grade of A or B when it comes to the condition of its military, including 28% who give it the highest grade of A. Another 22% give it a middling grade of C, and just 7% gives the country a grade of D or a failing mark of F.

**GRADE ON CONDITION OF U.S. MILITARY**

A	28%
B	39
C	22
D	5
F	2

Majorities of Democrats and Republicans, and women and men, give the country an A or a B on this measure.

But there are concerns that as a result of fighting two wars the U.S. military may be spread too thin. Just 34% say the military is adequately prepared to respond to a new military threat against the U.S., while 56% say the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have spread the military too thin to be able to respond effectively.

**COULD U.S. MILITARY RESPOND TO ANOTHER MILITARY THREAT?**

Yes	34%
No, spread too thin	56

In addition, most say the country is not doing enough for troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. 71% say the government is not doing all it could to care for the needs and problems of these troops, while just 22% say it is. Views are similar regardless of political affiliation.

**IS U.S. DOING ENOUGH FOR TROOPS RETURNING FROM IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN?**

Yes	22%
No	71

Opinions about whether the government is providing adequate resources are more positive, but still, just half says the government is giving troops in other countries enough resources and other military equipment to succeed. 37% say it is not. Six in ten Democrats say the government is doing this, while Republicans and independents are divided.

**IS U.S. GIVING OVERSEAS TROOPS ENOUGH RESOURCES AND EQUIPMENT?**

	All	Reps	Dems	Inds
Yes	50%	46%	62%	42%
No	37	46	26	40

As has been the case for nearly twenty-five years, most Americans oppose reinstating the draft -- 76% in this poll. Just one in five supports doing that. The Gallup Poll has been asking Americans how they feel about the draft since 1980; while there was more support for the draft early in the 1980s, by 1985 just a quarter supported it.

**RETURN TO MILITARY DRAFT?**

	Now	8/2007	1/2003	3/1985	10/1981	10/1980	2/1980	1/1980
CBS	*****	*****	*****	Gallup	*****	*****	*****	*****
Yes	20%	18%	27%	25%	43%	48%	59%	44%
No	76	80	69	73	51	36	36	51

Majorities of all age, gender and political groups oppose returning to a draft, but men and older Americans are more likely to support it.

**RETURN TO MILITARY DRAFT?**

	Yes	No
All	20%	76
Men	27%	71
Women	13%	80
Age 18-29	7%	93
30-44	13%	81
45-64	28%	68
65 and over	32%	58
Republicans	18%	80
Democrats	22%	74
Independents	19%	74

---

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1,048 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone December 17-22, 2009. Phone numbers were dialed from random digit dial samples of both standard land-line and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher.

This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

**CBS NEWS POLL**  
**WHERE AMERICA STANDS: CONDITION OF THE U.S. MILITARY**  
**December 17-22, 2009**

q19 Using a grading scale of A, B, C, D, and F, where A is excellent and F is very poor and using any of the grades in between, how would you grade the condition of the U.S. military?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **		
	Total	Men	Women
	%	%	%
A	28	31	26
B	39	38	39
C	22	20	23
D	5	6	5
F	2	2	2
DK/NA	4	3	5

q70 Do you think we should return to the military draft at this time, or not?

				Aug2007*
				%
Yes	20	27	13	18
No	76	71	80	80
Don't know	4	2	7	2

\*Gallup trend "Do you think the United States should..."

q71 From what you know, do you think the U.S. government is giving U.S. troops in other countries enough resources and military equipment to succeed, or not?

Yes	50	54	46
No	37	37	36
Don't know/No answer	13	9	18

q72 Do you think the federal government is doing all that it could be expected to do to care for the needs and problems facing U.S. military personnel returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, or not?

				Apr09b
Yes, doing all it could	22	23	21	20
No, not doing all it could	71	72	70	71
Don't know/No answer	7	5	9	9

q74 Do you think the U.S. military is adequately prepared to respond to a new military threat against the United States, or do you think the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have spread U.S. military forces too thin to be able to respond to a new military threat effectively?

Can respond	34	40	28
Spread too thin	56	55	56
Depends (vol.)	2	1	2
DK/NA	8	4	14

	<u>Unweighted</u>	<u>Weighted</u>	<u>Margin of error</u>
Total Respondents	1048		3 pts.
Total Men	442	493	5 pts.
Total Women	606	555	4 pts.