

CONCERNED VETERANS FOR AMERICA

National Online Survey

N=800 Veterans

N=800 Military Households

April 5-14, 2019

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- An asterisk (*) in a response category means that less than 0.5% of respondents chose that response category, and a dash (--) represents no response.
 - Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.
 - Interviews were conducted online April 5-14, 2019 among 800 Veterans and 800 Military Households. Results based on each full sample of N=800 have an estimated margin of error of +/- 3.5 percentage points. The research was conducted by In Pursuit Of. After collection, weighting was applied to the Veteran sample using publicly-available figures on the Veteran population. Representation was approximated by using quotas for the Veteran sample on gender, age, ethnicity, and region of the country.
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1. Generally speaking, do you feel things in the country are going in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

<u>VETs</u>	<u>HHs</u>	
48%	49%	Right direction
52%	51%	Wrong track

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Donald Trump is doing as President? (**ROTATED**)

<u>VETs</u>	<u>HHs</u>	
56%	50%	TOTAL APPROVE
44%	50%	TOTAL DISSAPPROVE
31%	24%	Strongly approve
26%	27%	Somewhat approve
11%	19%	Somewhat disapprove
32%	31%	Strongly disapprove

3. Thinking specifically about the issue of foreign policy...do you approve or disapprove of the job Donald Trump is doing on foreign policy? **(ROTATED)**

<u>VETs</u>	<u>HHs</u>	
56%	51%	TOTAL APPROVE
44%	49%	TOTAL DISSAPPROVE
30%	22%	Strongly approve
26%	29%	Somewhat approve
14%	19%	Somewhat disapprove
30%	30%	Strongly disapprove

4. From the list of issues below, please select the one you believe to be the **most important** issue facing the country today, and the one you believe to be the **least important** issue facing the country today. **(RANDOMIZED)**

Most Important

<u>VETs</u>	<u>HHs</u>	
30%	22%	Immigration and border security
17%	16%	Health care
13%	9%	Spending and our national debt
9%	12%	National security/military issues
8%	12%	Jobs and the economy
5%	6%	Energy and the environment
5%	7%	Race relations/racism
4%	4%	Veterans issues
3%	4%	Taxes
2%	6%	Education
2%	2%	Other (please specify)
1%	1%	Don't Know

Least Important

<u>VETs</u>	<u>HHs</u>	
26%	18%	Race relations/racism
15%	12%	Energy and the environment
13%	14%	Immigration and border security
8%	12%	Taxes
7%	7%	Education
7%	9%	Spending and our national debt
6%	4%	Jobs and the economy
3%	3%	Health care
3%	4%	Veterans issues
2%	4%	National security/military issues
1%	*	Other (please specify)
10%	12%	Don't Know

5. Should the United States be more or less militarily engaged in conflicts around the world, or stay about the same?

<u>VETs</u>	<u>HHs</u>	
6%	13%	More
48%	41%	Less
43%	41%	Stay about the same
3%	5%	Don't know

6. Do you think it's necessary for the safety of the United States to continue keeping troops in Afghanistan? **(ROTATED)**

<u>VETs</u>	<u>HHs</u>	
38%	39%	Yes, it is necessary
43%	40%	No, it is not necessary
18%	21%	Don't know

7. If the President were to authorize that all U.S. troops be removed from Afghanistan, would you support or oppose that decision? **(ROTATED)**

<u>VETs</u>	<u>HHs</u>	
60%	60%	TOTAL SUPPORT
32%	30%	TOTAL OPPOSE
28%	28%	Strongly support
31%	32%	Somewhat support
23%	19%	Somewhat oppose
10%	11%	Strongly oppose
8%	10%	Don't know

8. As you may know, U.S. troops have been in Syria battling ISIS since 2014. As of today, ISIS has lost all of their land. Some military experts say ISIS has been decimated and the U.S. should remove troops from Syria. Other experts say ISIS has retreated underground and will emerge again once the U.S. leaves. In thinking about this...do you think it's necessary for the safety of the United States to continue keeping troops in Syria? **(ROTATED)**

<u>VETs</u>	<u>HHs</u>	
55%	54%	Yes, it is necessary
31%	30%	No, it is not necessary
14%	16%	Don't know

9. If the President were to authorize that all U.S. troops be removed from Syria, would you support or oppose that decision? **(ROTATED)**

<u>VETs</u>	<u>HHs</u>	
49%	50%	TOTAL SUPPORT
44%	39%	TOTAL OPPOSE
22%	23%	Strongly support
27%	28%	Somewhat support
30%	24%	Somewhat oppose
14%	15%	Strongly oppose
7%	11%	Don't know

Thinking now about Congress and the President as it relates to military authority...

10. Who should have the authority to send American troops into military conflicts around the world? **(ROTATED)**

<u>VETs</u>	<u>HHs</u>	
23%	21%	The President
16%	19%	Congress
60%	56%	Both President and Congress
1%	4%	Don't know

11. How would you describe the balance of authority in practice as it stands today when it comes to military action? Of the following choices, which would you agree with the most? **(ROTATED)**

<u>VETs</u>	<u>HHs</u>	
48%	35%	The balance of authority between the President and Congress is where it should be
31%	34%	The President has too much authority, and more authority needs to be given to Congress
16%	22%	Congress has too much authority, and more authority needs to be given to the President
6%	10%	Don't know

Still thinking about this issue...

12. Please select which of the following viewpoints you agree with the most. **(ROTATED)**

<u>VETs</u>	<u>HHs</u>	
60%	49%	The President must have the ability and flexibility to send troops wherever is needed to protect U.S. interests without Congressional approval since he can't be expected to wait for Congress to agree to authorize the use of force.
31%	36%	The executive branch, including Presidents Bush, Obama, and Trump, have exercised too much authority when it comes to using military force, and the power of Congress to authorize force should be restored.
9%	15%	Don't know

13. Which of the following should the United States do when it comes to spending on the military by the Pentagon? (ROTATED)

<u>VETs</u>	<u>HHs</u>	
32%	31%	Increase spending
15%	24%	Decrease spending
50%	38%	Keep spending levels about the same
3%	7%	Don't know

14. As you might know, the U.S. national debt is more than \$22 trillion. How much of a threat do you believe the national debt is to our national security? (ROTATED)

<u>VETs</u>	<u>HHs</u>	
76%	71%	TOTAL EXTREME/SOMEWHAT OF A THREAT
20%	21%	TOTAL VERY LITTLE/NO THREAT AT ALL
31%	27%	Extreme threat
44%	45%	Somewhat of a threat
18%	16%	Very little threat
3%	5%	No threat at all
4%	8%	Don't know

15. Do you approve or disapprove of the Base Realignment and Closure process, also known as BRAC, which closes or repurposes obsolete or duplicative military bases as a way to streamline the military and save taxpayer money? (ROTATED)

<u>VETs</u>	<u>HHs</u>	
71%	63%	TOTAL APPROVE
21%	18%	TOTAL DISAPPROVE
23%	18%	Strongly approve
47%	44%	Somewhat approve
14%	13%	Somewhat disapprove
7%	5%	Strongly disapprove
8%	20%	Don't know

Thinking now about the Department of Veterans Affairs, or VA...

- 16. From what you know, how would you rate the overall quality of the benefits and services military veterans receive from the Department of Veterans Affairs, or VA? (ROTATED)**

<u>VETs</u>	<u>HHs</u>	
39%	32%	TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD
59%	64%	TOTAL FAIR/POOR
8%	7%	Excellent
31%	26%	Good
35%	34%	Fair
23%	30%	Poor
2%	4%	Don't know

- 17. And what about health care, specifically...how would you rate the quality of health care military veterans receive from the Department of Veterans Affairs, or VA? (ROTATED)**

<u>VETs</u>	<u>HHs</u>	
40%	32%	TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD
57%	64%	TOTAL FAIR/POOR
8%	7%	Excellent
31%	25%	Good
35%	35%	Fair
22%	28%	Poor
3%	5%	Don't know

- 18. Do you think the health care provided to veterans from the VA has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same over the last five years? (ROTATED)**

<u>VETs</u>	<u>HHs</u>	
36%	23%	Gotten better
23%	34%	Gotten worse
35%	34%	Stayed about the same
6%	9%	Don't know

- 19. Do you think the health care that U.S. veterans receive from VA medical facilities is generally better than, generally worse than, or about the same as health care that most Americans receive? (ROTATED)**

<u>VETs</u>	<u>HHs</u>	
20%	17%	Generally better
42%	46%	Generally worse
31%	28%	About the same
7%	9%	Don't know

20. How important is it to you that lawmakers in Washington reform the way in which health care services are provided to U.S. veterans? Is it...? (ROTATED)

<u>VETs</u>	<u>HHs</u>	
30%	28%	Absolutely essential
47%	42%	Very important
17%	22%	Of average importance
3%	3%	Of little importance
1%	2%	Not important at all
2%	4%	Don't know

21. Do you favor or oppose giving veterans the choice to use their VA health care benefits at medical facilities or health care providers outside of the VA's existing medical system? (ROTATED)

<u>VETs</u>	<u>HHs</u>	
90%	86%	TOTAL FAVOR
7%	8%	TOTAL OPPOSE

53%	50%	Strongly favor
37%	36%	Somewhat favor
5%	6%	Somewhat oppose
2%	2%	Strongly oppose
3%	5%	Don't know

22. Do you favor or oppose giving veterans the choice to use their VA health care benefits at medical facilities or health care providers outside of the VA's existing medical system, even if it means they could pay a little more out of pocket? (ROTATED)

<u>VETs</u>	<u>HHs</u>	
79%	78%	TOTAL FAVOR
17%	15%	TOTAL OPPOSE

38%	36%	Strongly favor
41%	42%	Somewhat favor
11%	12%	Somewhat oppose
6%	3%	Strongly oppose
4%	7%	Don't know

23. Based on what you know, do you believe the VA has enough funding to take care of the needs of our nation's veterans? (ROTATED)

<u>VETs</u>	<u>HHs</u>	
21%	26%	Yes
58%	57%	No
20%	18%	Don't know

Thinking now about your personal experience...

24. Regardless of whether or not you have accessed medical care through the VA, in your opinion, how easy or difficult is it to access medical care through the VA? Would you say it is...? **(ROTATED)**

<u>VETs</u>	<u>HHs</u>	
36%	32%	TOTAL EASY
53%	57%	TOTAL DIFFICULT
11%	7%	Very easy
24%	25%	Somewhat easy
38%	41%	Somewhat difficult
15%	16%	Very difficult
11%	12%	Don't know

25. Regardless of whether or not you have accessed medical care through the VA, in your opinion, do you think the wait times to receive medical care at VA facilities are reasonable or unreasonable? Would you say they are...? **(ROTATED)**

<u>VETs</u>	<u>HHs</u>	
35%	29%	TOTAL REASONABLE
56%	60%	TOTAL UNREASONABLE
8%	6%	Very reasonable
27%	23%	Somewhat reasonable
36%	38%	Somewhat unreasonable
21%	22%	Very unreasonable
8%	11%	Don't know