

# Los Angeles Times / Bloomberg

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## MILITARY FAMILIES

### *Outlook On The War And Bush Administration*

**M**ilitary families have always been a reliable group for wartime presidents – they have tended to be very supportive of the policies of the administration. The war in Iraq, though, is changing that relationship. Majorities of military families (which include active duty service men and women, veterans and families of military and veterans) do not feel the war in Iraq was worth fighting and find it appropriate for retired military to criticize a president in an ongoing war. The findings show that this group mirrors the public at large. Even the men and women who saw war in Iraq and Afghanistan are disappointed with the current administration.

*Bush Job Approval:* A little more than a third of military families approve of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president and almost the same small share approve of his administration handling the needs of active duty troops and their families, as well as veterans. Those who have or had family stationed in Iraq are slightly more positive in the way the current administration is handling their needs. More than two out of five approve, compared to 29% for all Americans and 35% for military families. Nearly two out of five military families approve of the way the Bush administration is handling the situation in Iraq, slightly better than the 31% of all Americans who agree with this assessment.

To further show that military families are becoming disillusioned with Republicans, 39% trust the Democratic Party to do a better job of handling issues relating to military families, while 35% trust the Republican Party.

*War in Iraq:* Another reason why military families are edging away from Republicans and more specifically the president, only roughly a third of military families said the Iraq war was worth fighting, while nearly three out of five don't believe it was. And nearly three-fifths want the troops home within the next year or sooner. Among those who served in the war zone, almost seven in 10 feel the same way. This belief that the troops should come home soon is opposite the position President Bush and the Republicans have taken. They want the troops to stay in Iraq for as long as it takes to get the job done. Just a little over a third of military families and a quarter in the war zone side with the president's view. Their feelings about the war mirror what the public in general has been saying for the last year or two. Almost two-thirds of all Americans want the troops home within the next year or sooner, as do 88% of Democrats and 67% of independents. Republicans are still agreeing with the president – 61% want to stay in Iraq for as long as is required to win the war.

Military families, as well as those who were stationed in Iraq or Afghanistan, agree that retired military officers have the right to criticize the Bush's administration's execution of the war in Iraq, even though it is an ongoing war. Roughly three out of five of each group find it appropriate for retired officers to publicly criticize the way the war is going. More than three out of five of all Republicans find this inappropriate.

*November General Election:* Looking forward to November's presidential election, military families are not that enamored with the two leading Democratic candidates – NY Senator Hillary Clinton and Illinois Senator Barack Obama. Their votes are different than votes among all registered voters. Among all voters, Clinton beats former Mass. Governor Mitt Romney by eight points and former NY Mayor Rudy Giuliani by four points, while Obama beats Romney by 12 points and Giuliani by five points. Among military families, Clinton beats Romney by three points, but trails Giuliani by three points and Obama is ahead of Romney by five points and trails Giuliani by three points.

-- Analysis by Susan H. Pinkus

# Los Angeles Times / Bloomberg National Survey

## The 2008 Election, The Economy, Immigration, and Military Families

Field dates: November 30 – December 3, 2007

### Release 3 –Military Family Attitudes

Released December 6, 2007 4:00 p.m. Pacific

#### Guide to column headings:

ALL	All Respondents
REG	Registered voters
DEM, IND, REP	Those who feel affiliated to the Democrats /Independents/ Republicans
NO/M&V	No one in the immediate family, including respondent, is in the military, reserves, or are veterans
<i>Military Family subgroups:</i>	
R/M&V	Respondent is in the military, reserves or is a veteran
F/M&V	Someone else in the respondent's family is in the military, reserves or is a veteran
MILFAM	Military Family - respondent or some family member is in the military, reserves or is a veteran
N/IRAQ	Respondent member of a military family, but no one in the family, including the respondent, has been stationed in Iraq or Afghanistan during the recent conflicts there
IR/FM	Iraq Families – respondent or someone in family has been stationed in Iraq or Afghanistan during recent conflict there

#### Notes:

- (vol.) indicates a volunteered response
- ‘-’ indicates that a response added up to less than 0.5% of the question base
- The order of any arguments, names, or statements are rotated in all questions that mention them. Question order is rotated whenever applicable.
- Responses are among all adults and subgroups of all adults, unless otherwise indicated
- For the results of questions not included in this release, see LAT0548 Releases 1 & 2, December 4 & 5 , 2007

#### Survey Methodology:

The Los Angeles Times / Bloomberg Poll contacted 1,467 adults nationwide by telephone November 30 through December 3, 2007. Included are 1,245 registered voters; 631 military family members; 175 respondents who are in the military, reserves or who are veterans; 456 non-military respondents who are members of military families; and 152 respondents in "Iraq Families" – those who are serving or have served in Iraq or Afghanistan or who have family members who have done so. "Military family members" are defined as those who are themselves in the service or reserves, or who are veterans, and those who have an immediate family member in one of those categories.

The margin of sampling error for all adults and for registered voters is plus or minus 3 percentage points; for military families it is 4 points; for respondents in the military it is 7 points, for Iraq families, it is 8 points. For certain subgroups, the error margin may be somewhat higher.

Telephone numbers for the sample were chosen randomly from a list of all exchanges in the nation, allowing listed and unlisted numbers to be contacted. Multiple attempts were made to contact each number. Adults were weighted slightly to conform with their respective census proportions by sex, ethnicity, age, education, and national region.

Poll results may also be affected by factors such as question wording and the order in which questions are presented. Interviewing was conducted by Interviewing Service of America, Inc. in Van Nuys, CA.

For Poll stories, graphics, press releases, and more, visit [LATimes.com/TimesPoll](http://LATimes.com/TimesPoll)

Q21. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? (IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE) Do you (approve/disapprove) strongly or do you (approve/disapprove) somewhat?

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>NO/M&amp;V</u>	<u>R/M&amp;V</u>	<u>F/M&amp;V</u>	<u>MILFAM</u>	<u>N/IRAQ</u>	<u>IR/FM</u>
Approve (net)	<u>33</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>38</u>
Approve strongly	14	15	3	8	36	11	24	16	18	18	21
Approve somewhat	19	20	4	22	33	18	20	18	19	19	18
Disapprove (net)	<u>61</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>59</u>
Disapprove somewhat	16	16	11	16	16	18	13	14	14	13	12
Disapprove strongly	45	45	78	46	10	46	37	47	44	44	46
D/know (net)	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>

Q22. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Bush administration is handling the situation in Iraq? (IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE) Do you (approve/disapprove) strongly or do you (approve/disapprove) somewhat?

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>NO/M&amp;V</u>	<u>R/M&amp;V</u>	<u>F/M&amp;V</u>	<u>MILFAM</u>	<u>N/IRAQ</u>	<u>IR/FM</u>
Approve (net)	<u>31</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>38</u>
Approve strongly	17	18	3	9	42	12	34	19	22	22	24
Approve somewhat	14	15	5	14	25	14	18	13	14	14	14
Disapprove (net)	<u>63</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>60</u>
Disapprove somewhat	12	12	10	15	12	14	8	10	10	10	9
Disapprove strongly	51	50	80	52	14	53	38	52	49	48	51
D/know (net)	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>

Q23. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Bush administration is handling the needs of active duty troops, military families, and veterans? (IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE) Do you (approve/disapprove) strongly or do you (approve/disapprove) somewhat?

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>NO/M&amp;V</u>	<u>R/M&amp;V</u>	<u>F/M&amp;V</u>	<u>MILFAM</u>	<u>N/IRAQ</u>	<u>IR/FM</u>
Approve (net)	<u>29</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>42</u>
Approve strongly	13	13	3	9	27	9	23	15	17	16	21
Approve somewhat	16	16	5	14	30	14	21	17	18	17	21
Disapprove (net)	<u>57</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>49</u>
Disapprove somewhat	16	16	19	16	15	19	10	13	12	15	5
Disapprove strongly	41	42	62	44	13	42	37	43	41	40	44
D/know (net)	<u>14</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>9</u>

Here are some questions about the Democratic and Republican parties. Could you please tell me which of those two parties you feel is better at handling the following issues. If you don't think one party is better than the other, you can tell me that, too. First...

Q31. Which party do you trust to do a better job of handling issues relating to military families? (ACCEPT "NEITHER/SOME OTHER PARTY" OR "BOTH EQUALLY" AS A VOLUNTEERED RESPONSE)

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>NO/M&amp;V</u>	<u>R/M&amp;V</u>	<u>F/M&amp;V</u>	<u>MILFAM</u>	<u>N/IRAQ</u>	<u>IR/FM</u>
Democrats	39	41	72	34	9	40	34	41	39	41	31
Republicans	31	33	5	22	73	27	41	33	35	33	42
Both equally	8	8	9	8	8	10	4	6	6	7	4
Neither/some other party	11	10	5	22	3	10	10	12	11	10	15
Not sure	11	8	8	14	6	12	11	8	9	9	8
Refused	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0

## Iraq and Iran / Military Families

Q51. All in all, do you think the situation in Iraq was worth going to war over, or not?

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>NO/M&amp;V</u>	<u>R/M&amp;V</u>	<u>F/M&amp;V</u>	<u>MILFAM</u>	<u>N/IRAQ</u>	<u>IR/FM</u>
Worth going to war	32	33	13	24	62	28	42	34	36	36	37
Not worth going to war	60	60	81	65	29	63	51	59	57	56	60
D/Know	8	7	6	11	9	9	7	7	7	8	3

Q52. In your opinion, should the United States withdraw troops from Iraq right away, or should the U.S. begin bringing troops home within the next year, or should troops stay in Iraq for as long as it takes to win the war?

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>NO/M&amp;V</u>	<u>R/M&amp;V</u>	<u>F/M&amp;V</u>	<u>MILFAM</u>	<u>N/IRAQ</u>	<u>IR/FM</u>
Troops home right away	23	23	36	23	5	24	15	24	21	20	27
Begin bringing home within the next year	41	40	52	44	26	44	34	38	37	35	42
As long as it takes	29	31	10	22	61	25	40	33	35	38	26
D/Know	7	6	2	11	8	7	11	5	7	7	5

Q53. As you may know, some retired military officers have publicly criticized the Bush administration's execution of the war in Iraq. Do you think it is appropriate or inappropriate for retired military personnel to criticize Bush during an ongoing war?

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>NO/M&amp;V</u>	<u>R/M&amp;V</u>	<u>F/M&amp;V</u>	<u>MILFAM</u>	<u>N/IRAQ</u>	<u>IR/FM</u>
Appropriate	58	59	79	62	32	59	55	59	58	60	55
Inappropriate	35	36	18	29	61	33	38	37	37	34	43
D/Know	7	5	3	9	7	8	7	4	5	6	2

**Survey Note: This survey was conducted before the release of the National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) concluding that Iran halted its nuclear weapons program in 2003.**

Overall, taking into consideration everything you have heard or read about the situation with Iran...

Q54. If Iran continues to produce material that can be used to develop nuclear weapons, would you support or oppose the U.S. taking military action against Iran? (IF SUPPORT OR OPPOSE) Would you (support/oppose) that strongly or only somewhat?

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>NO/M&amp;V</u>	<u>R/M&amp;V</u>	<u>F/M&amp;V</u>	<u>MILFAM</u>	<u>N/IRAQ</u>	<u>IR/FM</u>
Support (net)	46	47	37	40	68	45	52	48	49	48	53
Support strongly	29	29	23	25	46	26	38	32	34	34	34
Support somewhat	17	18	14	15	23	19	14	16	15	14	18
Oppose (net)	40	41	50	46	19	42	36	38	37	38	35
Oppose somewhat	14	16	18	16	9	18	13	10	10	11	9
Oppose strongly	26	25	32	30	10	24	23	28	27	27	27
D/know (net)	14	12	13	14	13	13	12	14	14	14	12

Q55. Suppose George W. Bush decides to order military action against Iran, would you support the use of U.S. ground troops against Iran, or would you support air strikes, but oppose the use of ground troops, or would you not be in support of any type of military action against Iran?

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>NO/M&amp;V</u>	<u>R/M&amp;V</u>	<u>F/M&amp;V</u>	<u>MILFAM</u>	<u>N/IRAQ</u>	<u>IR/FM</u>
No military action	36	36	50	40	13	37	33	37	36	38	30
Ground troops	4	4	3	4	7	4	1	4	3	3	7
Air strikes, no ground troops	28	29	23	28	36	27	33	28	29	28	31
Both air strikes and ground troops (vol)	17	17	9	12	31	15	25	18	20	20	19
D/Know	15	14	15	16	13	17	8	13	12	11	13