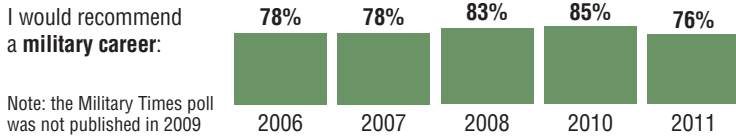
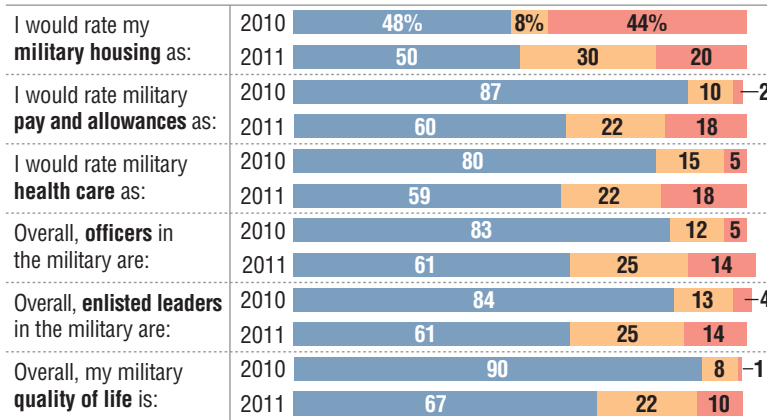


**Life in the military**

The percentage of respondents who said they would recommend a military career to others took a hit of 9 percentage points in 2011:

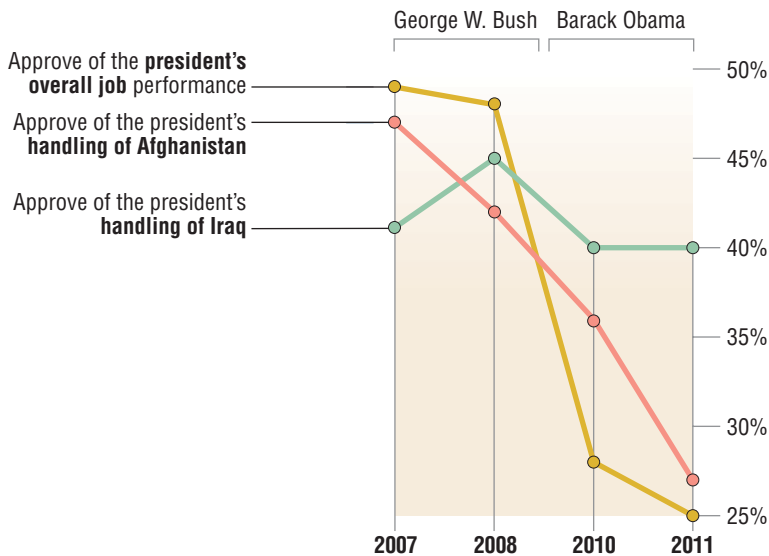


That dovetails with a decline in satisfaction with many aspects of life in uniform, with the noticeable exception of military housing:



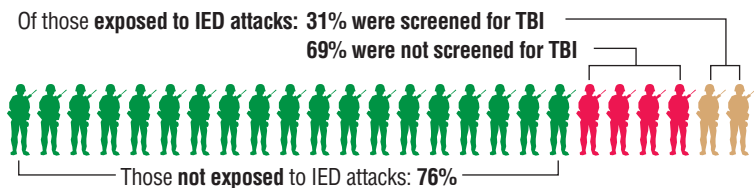
**Presidential performance**

Here, Military Times compares some survey questions it has been asking in the same way since at least 2007:



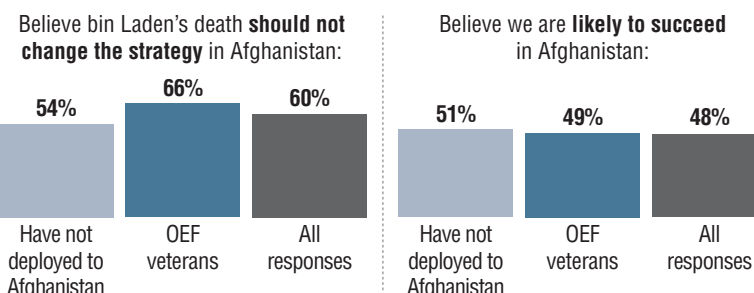
\*Note: The Military Times Poll was not published in 2009.

**IEDs and traumatic brain injury**



**Deployed troops' perspective**

Service members who deployed to Afghanistan were significantly more likely than those who hadn't to think the death of Osama bin Laden should not change America's strategy in Afghanistan.



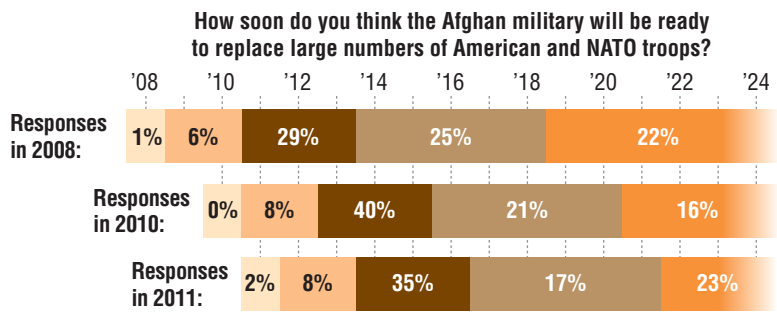
**The wars overseas**

Survey respondents overwhelmingly supported President Obama's plan to pull troops out of Iraq by the end of this year. Fewer supported his plan to draw down troops from Afghanistan, and even fewer supported the U.S. intervention in Libya. Military Times conducted the survey before Libyan rebels captured Tripoli.



**When will Afghanistan end?**

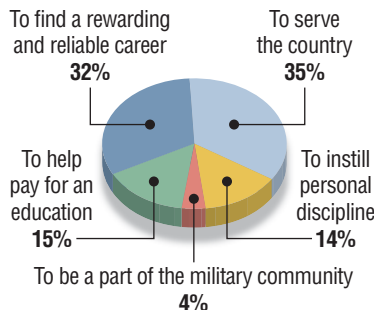
Since 2008, Military Times has asked service members when they expect the U.S. to accomplish its goals in Afghanistan. The plurality of respondents has consistently predicted America would reach its finish line in three to five years. In 2008, that meant the war would be over in 2013 at the latest. Today, the same answer puts the finish line in 2016.



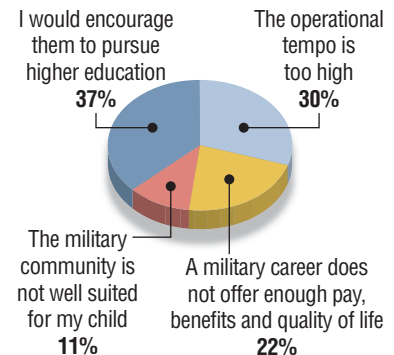
**A family tradition?**

Almost three-quarters of respondents said that if their child were considering going into the military, they would support that step. More than half of those discouraging military service did so because of operational tempo, pay or quality-of-life concerns.

If you are likely to recommend military service for your child, what is the primary reason?



If you are not likely to recommend military service for your child, what is the primary reason?



**Effects of PTSD**

Responses from troops who said they had been diagnosed with PTSD showed that the condition is linked to a wide variety of health and personal problems.

	No PTSD	PTSD
Have been prescribed medication for mental health	4	66
Have engaged in binge drinking in the last year	29	44
Last deployment created a great deal or quite a lot of conflict with significant other	23	52
Somewhat or very dissatisfied with family life	8	30
Somewhat or completely dissatisfied with job	18	39

**Afghanistan pessimism**

Readers who say the U.S. is very likely or somewhat likely to succeed in Afghanistan:

