Fall 2018 Propensity Update
Youth Poll: Propensity
FPP9: In the next few years, how likely is it that you will be serving in the Military?  
Response options: Definitely, Probably, Probably Not, Definitely Not

- General military propensity has stayed consistent at an aggregate level in 2018. However, female propensity decreased significantly from Summer 2018 to Fall 2018, while male propensity significantly increased from Fall 2017 to Fall 2018.

Note: Youth ages 16–21. Estimates are charted to precise values. Labels are rounded to the nearest whole percent. 
Source: DoD Youth Poll
**General Military Propensity**

**By Age**

**FPP9: How likely is it that you will be serving in the Military in the next few years?**

*Response options: Definitely, Probably, Probably Not, Definitely Not*

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**Note:** Estimates are charted to precise values. Labels are rounded to the nearest whole percent.

*Source: DoD Youth Poll (Fall 2018)*
General Military Propensity
By Race/Ethnicity

FPP9: In the next few years, how likely is it that you will be serving in the Military?
Response options: Definitely, Probably, Probably Not, Definitely Not Not

Note: Youth ages 16–21. Estimates are charted to precise values. Labels are rounded to the nearest whole percent.
Source: DoD Youth Poll

Note: Estimates for Black and Asian youth should be interpreted with caution because of relatively large margins of error.
Active Duty Propensity by Service

**FPP10A_Q–FPP10E_Q:** In the next few years, how likely is it that you will be serving in each of the following Military Services?

Response options: Definitely, Probably, Probably Not, Definitely Not

Note: Youth ages 16–21. Estimates are charted to precise values. Labels are rounded to the nearest whole percent.

Source: DoD Youth Poll
Youth Poll: Economic Conditions
As unemployment rates continue to decline, youth are confident in their ability to find full-time employment.
Black youth are more likely than any other racial/ethnicity group to report difficulty in finding a full-time job.

Note: Young ages 16–21. Estimates are charted to precise values. Labels are rounded to the nearest whole percent.

Source: DoD Youth Poll

Note: Estimates for Black and Asian youth should be interpreted with caution because of relatively large margins of error.

EMP5: “How difficult is it for someone your age to get a full-time job in your community?”
Backup
Youth Poll Methodology and Sample

  - A series of five mailings were sent to eight different cohorts semimonthly that invited recipients to participate.

- Final Youth Poll Sample: 5,099 youth aged 16 through 24
  - 4,051 youth aged 16 through 21 – the metrics presented herein focus on this age group.
  - 1,048 youth aged 22 through 24

- Weighted to reflect general population on several dimensions:
  - Gender
  - Age
  - Race/Ethnicity
  - Educational Attainment
  - Region

- Stratified Random Sample

**Note:** Estimates are charted to precise values. Labels are rounded to the nearest whole percent.

**Note:** Certain slides provide estimates by race/ethnicity.

- The December 2010 effort was the first Youth Poll with a sufficiently large sample size to report estimates for Asian youth. Asian estimates are included only at the overall level and not by gender because of sample size restrictions. The effective sample size for Asian youth is small and results should be interpreted cautiously.
**FPP9: In the next few years, how likely is it that you will be serving in the Military?**

Response options: Definitely, Probably, Probably Not, Definitely Not

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**Note:** Youth ages 16–21. Estimates are charted to precise values. Labels are rounded to the nearest whole percent.

Source: DoD YATS and Youth Poll

**Questions:**
- YATS (Q503–Jun-10 (FPP9)): “Now, I’d like to ask you how likely it is that you will be serving in the Military in the next few years?”
- Dec-10–Onwards (FPP9): “In the next few years, how likely is it that you will be serving in the Military?”
FPP9: How likely is it that you will be serving in the Military in the next few years?
Response options: Definitely, Probably, Probably Not, Definitely Not

Note: Youth ages 16–21. Estimates are charted to precise values. Labels are rounded to the nearest whole percent.
Source: DoD Youth Poll
**Reasons to Join**

*RTJ: if you were to consider joining the U.S. Military, what would be the main reason(s)?*

*Response options: Yes, multiple response*

### Top 10 Reasons

1. **To pay for future education** - 52%
2. **Pay/money** - 52%
3. **Travel** - 48%
4. **To help others** - 44%
5. **Gain experience/work skills** - 43%
6. **Health and medical benefits** - 38%
7. **Experience adventure** - 35%
8. **Pension and retirement benefits** - 31%
9. **Provides future job opportunities** - 31%
10. **Make a positive difference in my community** - 31%

*Note: Youth ages 16–21.*

*Source: DoD Youth Poll (Fall 2018)*
RNTJ: What would be the main reason(s) why you would NOT consider joining the U.S. Military?
Response options: Yes, multiple response

Top 10 Reasons

- Possibility of physical injury/death: 65%
- Leaving family and friend(s): 55%
- Possibility of PTSD or other emotional/psychological issues: 55%
- Other career interests: 35%
- Possibility of interference with college education: 32%
- Dislike of military lifestyle: 29%
- Family obligations: 28%
- Required to live in places I don’t want to: 28%
- Don’t want to be deployed overseas: 27%
- Too long of a commitment: 27%

Note: Youth ages 16–21.
Source: DoD Youth Poll (Fall 2018)