Spring 2017 Propensity Update
Youth Poll: Propensity
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: Department of Defense Youth Polls
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

Note: Estimates are charted to precise values. Labels are rounded to the nearest whole percent.
Source: Department of Defense Youth Poll (Spring 2017)
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: 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: Department of Defense Youth Polls
Youth Poll: Economic Conditions
As the economy has improved over the last few years, the proportion of youth who agree that it is very difficult or impossible to get a full-time job in their community has trended downward.

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

**EMP5:** “How difficult is it for someone your age to get a full-time job in your community?”
The proportion of youth who reported that it is very difficult or impossible to get a full-time job remained statistically unchanged by race/ethnicity from Fall 2016 to Spring 2017.

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

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: 6,544 youth aged 16 through 24
  - 5,188 youth aged 16 through 21 – the metrics presented herein focus on this age group.
  - 1,356 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.

Source: Department of Defense Spring 2017 Youth Poll
Historical General Military Propensity
By Gender

**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:** Department of Defense YATS and Youth Polls

**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–Spring-17 (FPP9): “How likely is it that you will be serving in the Military in the next few years?”
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: Department of Defense Youth Polls
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

- To pay for future education: 49%
- Travel: 45%
- Pay/money: 44%
- To help others: 41%
- Gain experience/work skills: 38%
- Health and medical benefits: 32%
- Experience adventure: 30%
- It is my duty/obligation to my country: 28%
- Pride/self-esteem/honor: 27%
- Provides future job opportunities: 27%

Note: Youth ages 16–21.

Source: Department of Defense Youth Poll (Spring 2017)
**Reasons Not to Join**

**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**

1. **Possibility of physical injury/death** - 65%
2. **Possibility of PTSD or other emotional/psych issues** - 53%
3. **Leaving family and friends** - 51%
4. **Other career interests** - 43%
5. **Possibility of interference with college education** - 32%
6. **Dislike of military lifestyle** - 29%
7. **Family obligations** - 28%
8. **Don't want to be deployed overseas** - 27%
9. **Don't believe I would qualify** - 27%
10. **Required to live in places I don’t want to** - 27%

**Note:** Youth ages 16–21.

**Source:** Department of Defense Youth Poll (Spring 2017)**