

ABC News/Washington Post poll: March 16, 2011

Three-Quarters Back Women in Combat Roles

The Military Leadership Diversity Commission has company: Nearly three-quarters of Americans agree that women in the armed services should be allowed to serve in ground units that engage in direct combat.

The commission, established by Congress in 2009 to evaluate military policies, recommended earlier this month that the U.S. military stop excluding women from ground combat units, saying such policies do not in fact keep them out of combat situations, deny them equal opportunities to serve and interfere with their promotion to senior ranks.

The latest ABC News/Washington Post poll finds little controversy about it: Seventy-three percent of Americans support allowing women in the military to serve in ground units that engage in close combat – essentially the same among men and women alike.

There are some differences among groups. Support for allowing women in combat roles peaks among young adults – 86 percent of under-30s – while dropping to 57 percent among senior citizens. And it's higher among more-educated Americans – 79 percent among those with college degrees vs. 66 percent among people who haven't finished high school.

Politically, support for allowing women in combat roles is higher among Democrats (80 percent) and independents (73 percent) than it among Republicans (62 percent). It ranges from 85 percent among liberals to 58 percent among “very” conservative Americans. But in no group is a majority opposed.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone March 10-13, 2011, among a random national sample of 1,005 adults, including landline and cell-phone-only respondents. The results from the full survey have a 3.5-point error margin. The survey was produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#) of New York, with sampling, data collection and tabulation by TNS of Horsham, PA.

Full results follow.

1-33, 35-36 previously released or held for release.

34. Do you support or oppose allowing women in the military to serve in ground units that engage in close combat?

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
3/13/11	73	25	2

END