

SURVEYING THE MILITARY

From Jan. 20 through Feb. 1, Military Times conducted a voluntary, confidential survey of active-duty, National Guard and reserve, and retired military subscribers.

About 41,000 subscribers received e-mail invitations to participate. Of those, 6,907 completed the survey, a participation rate of 17 percent. Except where noted, survey data were filtered to reflect only the 1,849 responses from active-duty members, including federally mobilized National Guard and reserve members.

The sample is not a perfect representation of the military as a whole; it over-represents soldiers, officers and noncommissioned officers, and under-represents women, minorities and junior enlisted personnel.

However, it is representative of the more senior and career-oriented members of the force who are predominantly responsible for carrying out policy changes.

Public opinion pollsters use random selection to survey the general public, whereas the Military Times survey is based on responses from readers who chose to take part. Statistical margins of error commonly reported in opinion surveys that use random sampling can't be calculated for this survey.

The voluntary nature of the survey, the dependence on e-mail and the characteristics of Military Times readers may affect the results.

The survey data are posted online at militarytimes.com/webtools/research. Reporters and researchers with questions about the methodology and analysis can contact database reporter Brendan McGarry at bmcgarry@atpco.com or 703-750-8665.