
Defense Report

AUSA



American Adults and Teens Agree — The Military Holds High Confidence

The Armed Forces of the United States instill more confidence in America's best high school students than does any other U.S. institution, public or private. That conclusion is drawn from the results of the fifteenth Annual Survey of High Achievers conducted by *"Who's Who Among American High School Students"* in the spring of 1984. The poll of 2,300 top juniors and seniors revealed that the majority (51%) have more confidence in the U.S. military than they do in the President (45%), the Senate (25%), the House of Representatives (23%), the judicial system (22%), corporations (15%) or the media (17.6%).

This is not a survey of the average high school student. These student leaders were selected for recognition by their principals or guidance counselors because of their high achievements in academics and other activities. Ninety-nine percent have an "A" or "B" average.

The patriotic sentiments of these young people carry over to their views on the draft. Half believe we need peacetime draft registration to be prepared in the event of a security emergency. A fourth favor mandatory registration for both men and women. If drafted, more than half of these teens said they would go willingly.

When the Harris Poll conducted its most recent annual survey of adult Americans to determine how much confidence they place in an assortment of U.S. institutions, the results were strikingly similar to the opinions of the high school student leaders. The military is held in high confidence by 35 percent of Americans, placing the Armed Forces in second place among institutions in which those surveyed expressed a great deal of confidence. Major educational institutions led the adult survey with a 36 percent vote of confidence.

The high levels of support for our military forces reflected in these polls would seem to run counter to what we so often see or read in the media (which, incidentally, received only a 19 percent rating from the Harris Poll). This support from the people they serve gives strength to our men and women in uniform and, through them, to our national security.