# **WOMEN AND THE USE OF FORCE**

For as long as polls have been conducted, they have shown women less disposed than men to favor the use of force. Nearly half of the women polled described themselves as "doves" during the Vietnam War (only 33% of men did), and far fewer women would favor the use of U.S. troops if Soviet troops invaded Western Europe.

Question: Do you favor or oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?

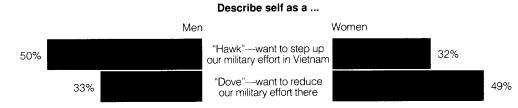
#### Favor death penalty for persons convicted of murder



Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization, latest that of September 25-October 1, 1988.

Question: People are called "hawks" if they want to step up our military effort in Vietnam. They are called "doves" if they want to reduce our military effort in Vietnam. How do you describe yourself-as a "hawk" or as a "dove"?

## 1968



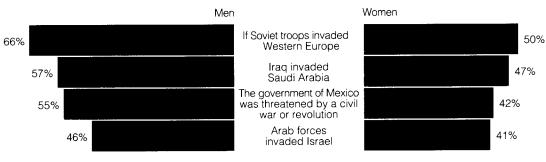
Note: Forty-one percent of the national sample described themselves as "hawks," 41% as "doves."

Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, April 4-9, 1968.

Question: There has been some discussion about the circumstances that might justify using U.S. troops in other parts of the world. I'd like to ask your opinion about some situations. First, would you favor or oppose the use of U.S. troops if ...

### 1990

#### Favor the use of U.S. troops if ...

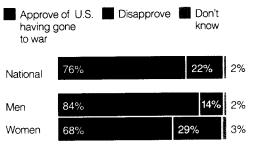


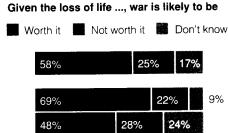
Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization for the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, October 23-November 15, 1990

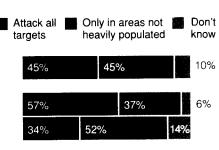
The war in the Persian Gulf displayed the "gender gap" on the use of force again. Still, support among women for U.S. policies has been consistently high: solid majorities backed the U.S. decision to send troops and viewed military action as necessary.

Question: Do you approve or disapprove of the United States having gone to war with Question: Given the loss of life and the other costs of the war in the Persian Gulf, do you think the war to defeat Iraq is likely to be worth the cost or not?

Question: Should American bombers attack all military targets in Iraq including those in heavily populated areas where civilians may be killed, or should American bombers attack only those military targets that are not in heavily populated areas?



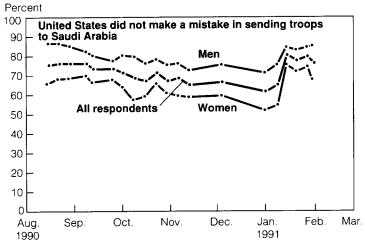




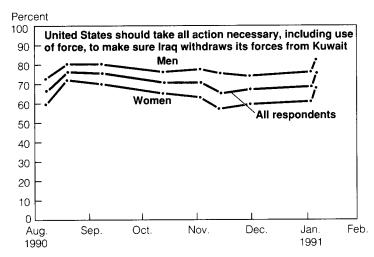
Source: Survey by ABC News/Washington Post, January 16,

Source: Survey by CBS News/New York Times, January 18, 1991.

Question: In view of the developments since we first sent our troops to Saudi Arabia, do you think the United States made a mistake in sending troops to Saudi Arabia, or not?



Question: Do you agree or disagree that the United States should take all action necessary, including the use of military force, to make sure that Iraq withdraws its forces from Kuwait?



	All	Men	Women		All		Women
Aug. 16-19, 1990	75%	86%	66%	Nov. 1-4	67%	6 75%	
23-26	76	86	68	8-11	68	76	60
Aug. 30-Sep. 2	76	85	68	15-18	65	72	59
Sep. 10-11	76	82	70	Dec. 6-9	66	75	60
14-16	73	80	67	Jan. 3-6, 1991	61	71	52
27-30	73	77	68	11-13	65	75	55
Oct. 3-4	71	80	64	17-20	80	84	76
11-14	68	79	58	23-26	77	83	72
18-21	67	76	59	Jan. 30-Feb. 2	79	84	75
25-28	71	78	66	Feb. 2-7	76	85	69

Jan. 4-6, 1991 68 76 61 Jan. 9 75 82 69				
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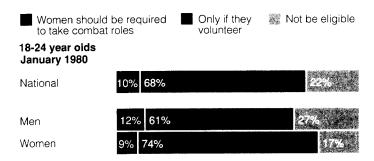
Source: Surveys by ABC News/Washington Post.

Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization

# Women in Combat

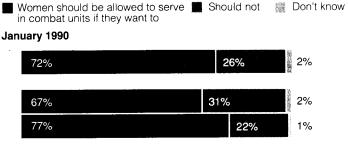
Unease about women in combat in the Gulf was clear, despite solid support for the idea that women should have a say in this decision. Men (64%) and women (62%) approved of women's involvement in combat during the Panama incident, but men (45-45%) and women (49-37%) were split on women in combat in the Gulf.

Question: If women are drafted, should they be required to take combat roles as men are, should they be given combat roles only if they volunteer for them, or should they not be eligible for combat?



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization for Newsweek, January 31-February 1, 1980.

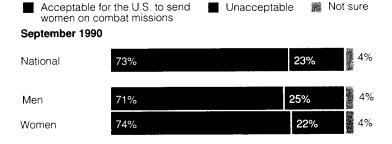
Question: About 11 percent of the armed forces are women. Right now, they can serve in support positions, but not in combat units. Do you think women members of the armed forces should be allowed to serve in combat units if they want to, or don't you think so?



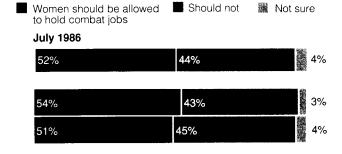
Source: Survey by CBS News/New York Times, January 13-15, 1990

Source: Survey by NBC News/Wall Street Journal. September 15-18. 1990.

Question: And do you feel it is acceptable or unacceptable for the United States to send women on military missions where they may be involved in combat?

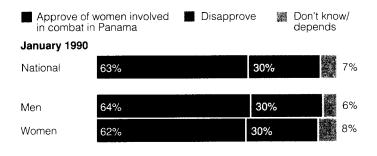


Question: Under current law, women are not allowed to hold combat jobs in the U.S. armed forces. Do you think women should or should not be allowed to hold combat jobs in the armed forces?



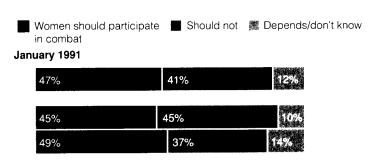
Source: Survey by NBC News/Wall Street Journal, July 14-15, 1986

Question: On a different subject, during the invasion of Panama, American women were involved in active combat for the first time. Do you approve or disapprove of this?



Source: Survey by Market Opinion Research, January 25-31, 1990.

Question: If there is ground fighting in the war, do you think women members of the armed forces there should participate in combat, or not?



Source: Survey by CBS News, January 27-28, 1991