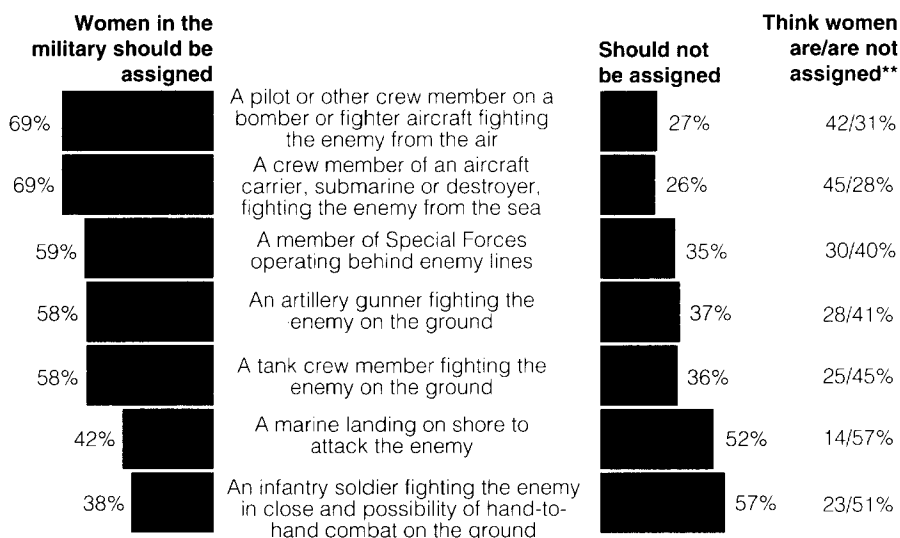


# WOMEN IN COMBAT

Many surveys have asked about women in combat, but few offer guidance for the services about what positions ought to be open to women. Two general dispositions stand out: first, that men and women should have equal opportunities, and second, that we have more reservations about direct ground combat positions for women than air or naval roles.

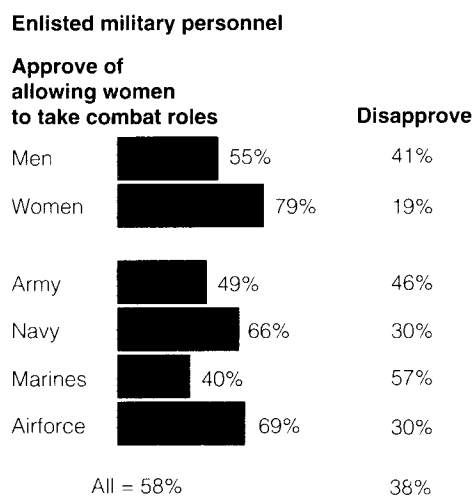
Question: I'm going to read you some different types of direct combat assignments\* in the military. For each, I'd like you to tell me whether you think that women in the military should or should not be assigned to it.



Note: \*Respondents had been given this definition of direct combat: "By direct combat we mean the direct engagement of our military with a foreign enemy, operating deadly weapons with the intent to kill and the risk of being killed. Of all assignments, direct combat exposes members of the military to the highest risk of injury, capture, and death." \*\*Respondents were asked whether they think women in the military are currently assigned to listed positions.

Source: Survey by the Roper Organization for the Presidential Commission on the Assignment of Women in the Armed Forces, July 17-28, 1992.

Question: How do you feel about allowing women to take combat roles in the U.S. armed forces?

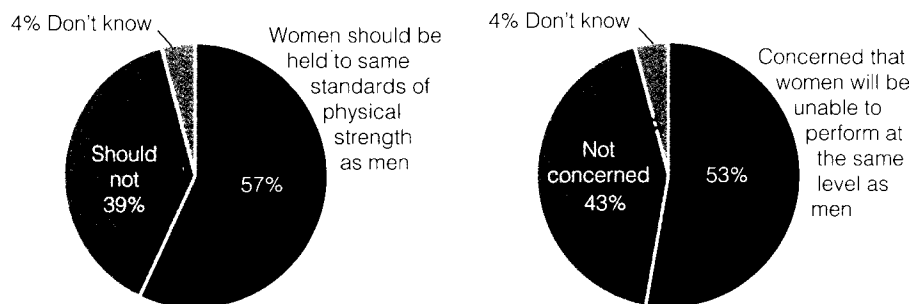


Note: Sample=2,346 enlisted men and women on active duty. The respondents were surveyed outside 38 military bases in the continental United States and Hawaii.

Source: Survey by the Los Angeles Times, February 11-16, 1993.

Defense Secretary Aspin recently lifted the ban on women's participation in aerial combat in his directive to the armed forces to open up more assignments to women. Women will still be barred from direct ground combat, but women Marines can now serve in some artillery positions and the Navy has drafted a proposal for Congress which would permit women to serve on surface combat ships.

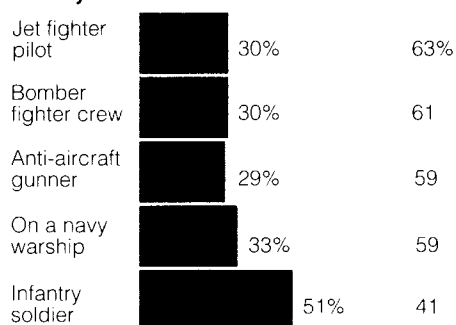
If women are allowed to qualify for combat roles...



Question wording: If women are allowed to qualify for combat roles, should they be held to the same standards of physical strength, stamina, and endurance as men, or not? (left chart) If women are allowed to get combat assignments, how concerned are you about each of the following? (middle chart).

Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization for Newsweek, July 25-26, 1991.

Allowing women to serve as... would be a burden to the military effort



Question wording: Do you think allowing women to serve in each of the following combat roles would be more of an advantage or more of a burden to the military effort? (right chart -- Not all categories shown.)